

And the Pride Parade nominees are...
Meet 10 outstanding LGBT activists in the
running for community grand marshal.
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Things to do and places
to visit in the desert city.
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Extreme makeover
Theron the latest in long
line of Oscar nominees.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 9 • 26 February 2004

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Bush backs marriage ban

by Bob Roehr

Confirming what gay rights activists have expected for months, President Bush on Tuesday, February 24 formally declared his support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage.

"Today I call upon the Congress to promptly pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of man and woman as husband and wife," Bush told a White House press briefing Tuesday morning.

He blamed "activist judges and local officials [who] have made an aggressive attempt to redefine marriage," citing recent developments in Massachusetts and San Francisco. "Decisive and democratic action is needed because attempts to redefine marriage in a single state or city could



President Bush

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Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, right, kisses her spouse Cris Arguedas following the couple's wedding.

Rick Gerhart

Migden gets married

by Cynthia Laird

California Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden married her longtime partner, criminal defense attorney Cris Arguedas Friday, February 20 in San Francisco's City Hall. Mayor Gavin Newsom officiated the ceremony that was attended by about 60 friends of the couple.

"You think I'm a blushing bride?" Migden asked friends who were assembled in Newsom's City Hall office as she and a beaming Arguedas arrived for the 10 a.m. ceremony. "This has been the most exhilarating day in my life."

Just before her own wedding, Migden officiated at the City Hall ceremony for San Francisco attorney Nanci Clarence and her partner, Lidia Szajko.

Migden and Arguedas, who have been together nearly 20 years, apparently made the decision to wed one day after prominent California Democrats began criticizing Newsom's February 12 directive that the city issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Since then, more than 3,300 same-sex couples have been married in City Hall. Migden, a Democrat, is a candidate for state Senate in Tuesday's California primary. She is running to replace state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), who cannot run again because of term limits.

Migden, a former San Francisco supervisor and assemblywoman, authored the state's original domestic partner laws several years ago.

Migden and Arguedas's wedding was only the third one that was performed by Newsom, the city's new Democratic mayor. Initially, reporters had been told the event would be open to the media, but the mayor's staff asked reporters to leave during the actual ceremony. Afterwards, at an unrelated news conference, the mayor told reporters that he closed the wedding to the press because he wanted to keep the focus on the couple.

"I don't want it to be about me," he said. Migden was all smiles after the ceremony, as she and Arguedas faced a throng of reporters.

"This is deep and meaningful to us," Migden said. "We're very honored and gratified."

Migden also said that it's time for other Democrats to support same-sex marriage. Specifically, she responded to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), who last Thursday called California's existing law "fair and appropriate because it gives equal rights and responsibilities to all citizens."

"I think it's time to get with the future," Migden said. "The issue is upon us and is going to be talked about."

Migden also expressed frustration at normally reliable Democratic allies who have now distanced themselves from gay and lesbian supporters over the issue of same-sex marriage.

"I've had it," she told the Bay Area Reporter during an informal reception outside Newsom's office after the ceremony. "I'm sick

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CA high court to get SF gay marriage case

by Matthew S. Bajko

The fight over San Francisco's issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples is set to land before the state's Supreme Court Friday, February 27 when Attorney General Bill Lockyer asks California's top court to rule on the matter.

Mayor Gavin Newsom instructed the county clerk to begin issuing the licenses on February 12 and since then more than 3,300 same-sex couples have wed. Lockyer intends to ask the court whether San Francisco city officials' actions violate state law, which defines marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

"The people of California who have enacted laws that recognize marriage only between a man and a woman, and the same-sex couples who were provided marriage licenses in San Francisco deserve a speedy resolution to the question of the legality of these licenses," Lockyer said late Monday, February 23.

On Tuesday, Newsom said he was not upset by Lockyer's decision.

"The attorney general has the right to do that," said Newsom.

In response to Lockyer's prediction that the courts will invalidate the marriages in San Francisco within weeks and stop the city

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Bill Lockyer

Rick Gerhart

Bay Area Reporter endorsements

Democratic Primary

President: No endorsement
U.S. Senator: Barbara Boxer

State Senate

District 3: Carole Migden

State Assembly

District 6: Joe Nation
District 7: Patricia Wiggins
District 12: Leland Yee
District 13: Mark Leno
District 14: Loni Hancock
District 16: Wilma Chan
District 27 (Santa Cruz): John Laird

Congress

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District 6: Lynn Woolsey
District 7: George Miller
District 8: Nancy Pelosi
District 9: Barbara Lee
District 10: Ellen Tauscher
District 12: Tom Lantos
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District 14: Anna Eshoo

District 15: Mike Honda

District 16: Zoe Lofgren

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San Francisco Propositions

Vote YES on A, B, D, F, I, J
Vote NO on C, E, G, H

State Propositions

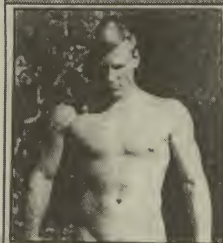
Vote YES on 55, 56, 57, 58

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Gay news in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Mayor's town hall Sat.

Mayor Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Bevan Dufty will hold the first town hall meeting of Newsom's term this Saturday, February 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe Street in the Castro.

The meeting is an opportunity for District 8 residents, merchants, and community groups to meet and share their concerns with the mayor, Dufty, and a variety of department heads including

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Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, Acting Police Chief Heather Fong, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White, Muni Director Michael Burns, Public Utilities Commission Director Pat Martel, and District Attorney Kamala Harris.

Newsom plans to hold other town hall meetings in every district during 2004.

Gym party Sunday

The Muscle System Gym on Market Street in the Castro has been sold, and staff, members, and friends are invited to a party Sunday, February 29 at 3 p.m. "It's the end of an era," said manager Alan Scopp, who will be leaving the business. New owners Scott Hall and Bernd Metz plan to rename the business The Gym SF, and are expected to take over beginning Monday, March 1.

Muscle System opened in the early 1980s and sponsored floats in the early years of the Pride Parade. It is the oldest gay men's gym in the city.

The gym and another one in Hayes Valley were once owned by three gay men who have since died of AIDS. The gyms became the property of their families, who have now sold the Market Street facility to the new gay owners. Scopp said that managers Bill Heter and John Haas are expected to remain at the gym under the new owners.

E. Bay Oscar party

The Academy Awards are this weekend and that means it's time for openly gay Hayward City

Council member Kevin Dowling's seventh annual Academy Awards party, Sunday, February 29, from 5-9 p.m. at the Hill and Valley Club, 1808 B Street, in Hayward. Admission is \$25 per person and features a pasta feast by the Hayward Firefighters Local 1909 and beer from Buffalo Bill's Brewery. For more information, contact Barbara Sacks at (510) 783-8175. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Kevin Dowling.

Lutheran wedding blessings

The people of St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco invite couples recently married at San Francisco City Hall to come for a Service of Blessing and Marriage this Sunday, February 29 at 11 a.m. at the church, 152 Church Street at Market (across from Safeway).

St. Francis Lutheran, which was expelled from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1990 for calling two openly lesbian pastors, wishes to affirm and bless their own pastors and other same-sex couples who seized the new opportunity to marry in San Francisco. The pastors, Phyllis Zillhart and Ruth Frost, are also a couple and were among those married at City Hall. The 100-year-old church has a long history of welcoming LGBT people.

A reception will follow the service. For more information and to RSVP to the service, call Zillhart or Frost at (415) 621-2635 or (415) 377-9783.

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- ▼ Graduate of Stanford Univ. and Harvard Law School

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- ▼ Former President, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, 2002-2003
- ▼ *SF Bay Guardian* "Local Hero," 2001
- ▼ Graduate of UC/Berkeley and UC/Hastings Law School

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- ▼ Board Member, Human Rights Campaign
- ▼ Past Co-chair, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF)
- ▼ Board Member, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
- ▼ Castro resident
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Out of town hate

Rick Gerhart

Members of the Reverend Fred Phelps's Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas bring their hate to San Francisco's Glide United Methodist Church Sunday, February 22 to mark the 10th anniversary of gay author and reporter Randy Shilts's death. About 30 Glide members responded with signs proclaiming God's love and singing Gospel songs. Mr. Shilts, a former reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, died in February 1994 of complications from AIDS and his funeral, which was also picketed by Phelps's group, was held at Glide Church.

Frank opposes nuptials

by Matthew S. Bajko

Openly gay Congressman Barney Frank, in town last week to raise funds for fellow Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo), upset many in the gay community when he spoke out against Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"In San Francisco it is important symbolism but I don't want us to not be realistic. Nobody thinks what they are seeing here is marriage. We are not seeing real marriage," said Frank. "I don't think most people in the country think San Francisco marriages are going to be upheld. We won the case in Massachusetts but we probably won't win it in San Francisco. The courts in San Francisco are probably likely to not validate them."

Frank, a Democrat who represents Boston, repeatedly denied that his opposition to San Francisco's gay marriages was due to the city upstaging the gay marriages expected to take place in Massachusetts in May. Instead, Frank said he did not agree with Newsom's self-described "civil disobedience" against state laws that say marriage is between a man and a woman.

"He is making a political statement. There are better, more focused ways to make that," Frank told reporters Thursday, February 19 outside Yank Sing, a Financial District dim sum restaurant where local gay leaders hosted a fundraiser for Lantos, who is facing a heated re-election campaign. "In Massachusetts it is very important for us to follow the law."

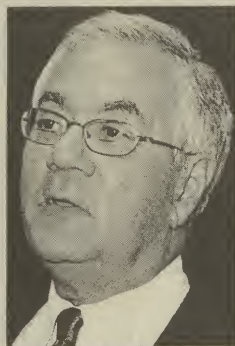
Worried how the city's moves would impact the fight over the Massachusetts marriages and efforts to have Congress pass a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, Frank said the public's attention was being diverted and debate should be focused on the federal level.

"We are probably going to have to vote on it in the Congress," said Frank.

One day prior to the event, Frank had told the *San Jose Mercury News* that the marriages taking place in San Francisco could sway votes against marital rights for gay and lesbian couples.

"If people believe that marriage in one state is going to have to be recognized in every state, we lose votes," he told the paper.

Thursday night Frank expressed some disappointment with Newsom, whom he said called him on Tuesday, February 10 to discuss the issue.



Rep. Barney Frank

"On Tuesday he said he wasn't going to do it," said Frank. "He said he was asking the city's lawyers for their opinion."

Two days later the city began handing out marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples, further flaming the national debate and drawing international media attention to the issue.

Last weekend a *Boston Globe* poll showed public opinion in Massachusetts turning against gay marriage, with 53 percent of voters opposed to same-sex marriage with 35 percent approving. An earlier poll showed that 48 percent supported legalizing gay marriages, while 43 percent were opposed.

Disputing the notion that San Francisco's actions were solely to blame for the turnaround, Frank instead said it was due to a combination of recent developments on gay marriage across the country, from a New Mexico county clerk giving marriage licenses to same-sex couples to positive remarks on gay marriage from mayors in Chicago and Pittsburgh, New York.

"I think San Francisco and New Mexico, and a couple others, that adds to it. It adds to the sense things are chaotic and nobody knows where it is going," Frank told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview Monday, February 23.

Tuesday, President Bush formally announced his support of the Federal Marriage Amendment. At a press conference several hours later, Newsom dismissed suggestions that Bush had been pushed into taking the stand because of San Francisco marrying same-sex couples. Newsom aides circulated a list of stories published prior to February 12 saying Bush supported the FMA.

"Before I was sworn into office this train had left the station," said Newsom. "He needs to do this because yesterday he announced his campaign for re-election."

Colin Gallagher, a gay Log Cabin member vying in the March 2 primary to be the Republican candidate against openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), disagreed with the mayor. He said Frank was right to fear that Newsom's decision would tilt public opinion in favor of the constitutional marriage amendment.

"It creates a lot of support for the FMA from moderate voters who otherwise don't care about the issue," said Gallagher.

Leno, who introduced a bill to legalize gay marriage in California and is pushing a resolution to voice California's opposition to the FMA, politely disagreed with Frank, saying "there is certainly room for more than one opinion on this. This has been a very valuable experience for the entire country."

"By putting a face on [gay marriage] it helps to change hearts and minds. That is why I applaud the mayor and the city," added Leno, who escorted Frank to the fundraiser.

Boston native Thom Lynch, the executive director of the LGBT Community Center, said he also disagreed with Frank's position.

"I think he is wrong on this. We should never be shying away from fighting for our civil rights," said Lynch, who met Frank several years ago while lobbying for AIDS funding in D.C. "I don't think this will have a negative effect on what is happening in Massachusetts, which is what I think his fear is. He fears it will fan the flames of fire for a constitutional amendment in Massachusetts."

In a letter he sent Frank, city resident Mark Dunlop told the congressman "he had missed the boat" with his statements.

Dunlop, who said he has met Frank on a number of occasions, wrote that from Stonewall to Harvey Milk and to the present with Newsom, the LGBT community has moved its fight for equality forward "only by crossing the lines set by homophobes and even some well-meaning supporters."

Dunlop likened Frank's fears to his not coming out as openly gay. Just as his being outed did not end Frank's political career, Dunlop argued his fears will once again be proved unfounded.

"You yourself didn't come out, you were outed in an attempt to discredit you. That obviously backfired and your fear of revealing who you are was unfounded. Now you are again fearful of Mayor Newsom's courageous actions. History, your history, proves your fears have no merit," wrote Dunlop. ▼

Mark Leno pushes anti-FMA resolution

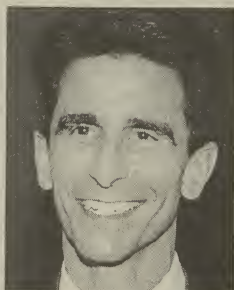
by Matthew S. Bajko

Openly gay state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) set up the first shot against a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage when he announced Wednesday, February 25 the introduction of a resolution that would make California the first state to oppose passage of the amendment.

The resolution is jointly authored by the five members of California's Legislative LGBT Caucus and was drafted by the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The Assembly Joint Resolution would "respectfully oppose any federal enactment designed to prohibit or restrict state legislatures or state courts from providing rights and obligations under the law for same-sex couples and their families."

Surrounded by the other members of the LGBT caucus and several gay rights groups, Leno made the announcement at the state Capitol. If passed by a majority vote in both houses of the Legislature, the resolution would be the first anti-FMA measure passed by a state.

Lawmakers in two states, Virginia and Oklahoma, have already passed resolutions supporting the FMA out of committee and are now before the full legislatures. A



Assemblyman Mark Leno

group of Arizona Republicans is also pushing its state legislature to pass a pro-FMA resolution. Earlier this month, U.S. Senator Zell Miller (D-Georgia) became the only Democratic senator to express support of the FMA.

Introduction of Leno's anti-FMA resolution had been expected in January, but concerns from national gay rights leaders that it would not pass apparently kept Leno from moving forward. In December, Leno had told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Our first action upon reconvening the first week in January will be an introduction of a resolution that will put California on record opposing any federal effort to amend the U.S. Constitution in a discriminatory fashion."

When questioned last month

as to why he had yet to move on the resolution, Leno said he had heard from Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, that lobbyists in Washington for national LGBT groups were not certain it would be beneficial.

"I am completely prepared to go ahead but am wanting to build more consensus," Leno said at the time.

Kors told the *B.A.R.* the concern was if the resolution did not pass, what message that would send to lawmakers in other states.

"Questions have come up such as 'Are you confident it will pass?' You don't want to introduce something like that and have it fail," said Kors. "As to whether a resolution should get introduced in California, the discussion has been purely on a strategy level. How does this impact the effort on a national basis?"

Jeff Bissiri, chair of the California Log Cabin Club, said he believes the resolution has more chance of passage this year than Leno's pro-gay marriage bill. The group of gay Republicans is against the FMA.

"I wonder, from a strategy point, if Leno's bill is the right thing to do at this point in time. I would be surprised if it came out of committee given the political climate," said Bissiri. "I would rather see the resolution put forward. That would put California

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Pastor under fire over same-sex marriages

by Liz Highleyman

A complaint has been filed against a local minister for performing same-sex marriages in San Francisco. The Reverend Dr. Karen Oliveto of Bethany United Methodist Church was informed on Thursday, February 19 that a complaint had been filed against her for "disobedience to the order and discipline" of the church, stemming from her recent performance of marriages for same-sex couples.

Oliveto was the first United Methodist minister in San Francisco to conduct legal same-sex marriages after Mayor Gavin Newsom instructed the city clerk to begin issuing licenses to same-sex couples two weeks ago. She performed her first ceremony at City Hall on February 12 for Michael Eaton, a member of Bethany's bell choir, and his partner Sean Higgins.

"I have presided over countless [same-sex] holy unions, and have treated them with the same solemnity and respect that I would any straight wedding," Oliveto wrote in an e-mail message to her congregation later the same day. "But to be able to say the words, 'You are now legally wed' was a powerful thing!"

The following Sunday, Oliveto married Dan Johnson and Bill



Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto

Hinson during a regular worship service – the first same-sex marriage conducted in a Methodist sanctuary. Johnson and Hinson said they could have been married at City Hall like so many others, but wanted a church wedding.

While the Methodist denomination officially prohibits same-sex holy unions, it does not have an explicit policy against actual same-sex marriages. "I am not doing what is interpreted as a holy union. I am doing a legal gay marriage," Oliveto emphasized.

According to an official United Methodist position statement, people of all sexual orientations are welcome in the church and entitled

to equal rights and civil liberties, but the church "do[es] not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider[s] this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." The church also defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Official statements may be amended by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, which convenes every four years; the next meeting will be in April in Pittsburgh.

Bethany is a "reconciling congregation," meaning it embraces LGBT members; it was the fourth United Methodist parish to adopt that designation 20 years ago. The 170-member congregation is about half gay and half straight, said lay leader Jeff Friant.

Bishop Beverly Shamana, who presides over the California-Nevada United Methodist Conference, was on leave last week, but issued a statement on February 18 concerning the recent events.

"At this time in the life of our denomination as people of faith we are not of one mind on issues related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons," the statement read in part. "Regarding Rev. Karen Oliveto's actions, there are clear processes in the Book of Discipline, which provide for ways that matters of this kind can be addressed and reviewed."

Jeneane Jones, communications
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Crowd celebrates same-sex marriages

by Liz Highleyman

More than 2,000 jubilant supporters gathered at the Hyatt Embarcadero on Sunday, February 22, to celebrate the weddings of lesbian pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin and the many other same-sex couples who have been joined since the city began issuing marriage licenses following a directive by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Molly McKay of Marriage Equality California called the events of the past several days — during which some 3,200 same-sex couples were married — “a love revolution.”

“Seeing a glaring injustice, Mayor Newsom wielded a mighty hammer, and the wall between ‘we’ and ‘they’ came crashing down,” she said. “It’s the Stonewall of the new millennium.”

Assessor-recorder Mabel Teng, whose office oversees the county clerk’s office that is in charge of issuing marriage licenses, was greeted with enthusiastic chants. “George Moscone and Harvey Milk must be very proud,” she said.

But the greatest outpouring of applause was reserved for Lyon and Martin, the first couple to be married after Newsom directed city officials to issue licenses to same-sex partners on February 12.

“It doesn’t seem that different being married, since we’ve been together 51 years,” Lyon told the *Bay Area Reporter*. “We’re very honored we were chosen to be the first.”

Over the course of the afternoon, the Reverend Penny Nixon of Metropolitan Community Church blessed the newlywed couples. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) offered a traditional Jewish blessing, champagne glasses were hoisted, couples danced to the strains of “Going to the Chapel,” and the guests of honor fed each other pieces of wedding cake. As afternoon turned to evening, would-be revelers were still lined up outside waiting to enter the hotel ballroom.

Though hastily arranged by Bay Area Community of Women, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Equality California, the LGBT Community Center, and several other groups, the massive party featured a full lineup of entertainment, including the Glide Memorial Choir, the Montclair Women’s Big Band, and the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus. Partygoers donated food and cham-



Jane Fry and her partner Laine Demetria celebrate at the wedding reception for same-sex couples with their children Ariel Fry-Demetria, 6, and Uma Fry-Demetria, 4.

pagne, and at the request of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, many also brought blenders, which were signed by distinguished guests and auctioned off to defray party expenses and fund future organizing.

Yet even as they celebrated,

partygoers were reminded that the fight for marriage equality is far from over.

“We’re standing in the middle of a very intense battleground,” said Leno. “What our opponents fear most of all is our love, because once America really under-

stands that, the arguments of the radical right will no longer work.”

“We’re running in a marathon, not a dash,” McKay concurred. “Now that you’re married, it’s time to get engaged.”

The loudest cheers of the day came when speakers called for the removal of President Bush from office, which had even 79-year-old Lyon pumping her fists in the air.

Leno and others also had harsh words for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who stated on NBC’s *Meet the Press* television show Sunday morning that he feared civil unrest, riots, and even injuries and deaths if San Francisco did not stop performing same-sex unions.

“I’m very disappointed that the governor decided he had to get his nose in it,” said Leno. “Not riots, but rather love, commitment, and domesticity descended on the streets of San Francisco — and we will never be the same.” ▼

Migden married

◀ page 1

of being the first cargo dumped off the track all the time.”

Asked if she had a message for fellow Democrats in the fight for same-sex marriage, Migden said, “You can shut up or you can help.”

Migden told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that she thought Boxer’s comment “shocked” some people, particularly those in the LGBT community. Boxer is up for reelection this year, and faces a

tough battle as the Republican Party has targeted her seat. Boxer’s GOP opponent will be determined in Tuesday’s primary. The leading candidates are former Secretary of State Bill Jones and former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin.

Burton, who attended Migden’s wedding, was supportive of same-sex marriage. “To me it’s much ado about nothing,” he said of the fierce opposition to gay marriage.

Former San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, a longtime friend of Migden’s, also attended the cer-

emony.

“Carole and Cris have been married for a long time,” he told the *B.A.R.* “It’s just that the law hasn’t caught up with them. They’re an amazing couple and I know it’s important to both of them.”

Migden’s marriage came just days before President Bush formally announced his support for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage. On Tuesday, February 24 she was deeply critical of the president.

“President Bush is picking the wrong side in what is becoming

the first major civil rights struggle of the 21st century,” she said. “Constitutional amendments have traditionally been reserved for bestowing additional rights upon American citizens, not taking rights away.”

“Over the past week and a half, we’ve seen thousands of lesbian and gay couples in long-lasting, stable, supportive relationships affirm their commitment to one another. These vows are good for our community because they encourage stability and commitment in the community.” ▼



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STATE ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT 12
No Endorsement



STATE ASSEMBLY
DISTRICT 13
▼ Mark Leno

US CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 12
No Endorsement

STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES

YES — PROP 55

YES — PROP 56 Budget
Accountability Act, hold
legislators accountable to pass
a budget on time

NO — PROP 57

NO — PROP 58

LOCAL MEASURES/ CHARTER AMENDMENTS

YES — PROP A

YES — PROP B

YES — PROP C

YES — PROP D Retirement
benefits for Domestic Partners

YES — PROP E

NO — PROP F

YES — PROP G

YES — PROP H Help Rescue
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YES — PROP I

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Threat advisory: Severe

President Bush's announcement Tuesday that he supports amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex marriage was not a surprise to the vast majority of LGBT Americans. We've been hearing for weeks that he would back such an amendment, and with the announcement, the president has placed himself squarely in the midst of the culture wars. Gay and lesbian Americans are under attack; but it's also important to note that democracy itself is under siege: never before has a president (or those in Congress sponsoring any one of several amendment proposals) seen fit to actually write discrimination into the Constitution.

It's a dubious distinction and one that cannot be allowed to succeed.

Bush singled out same-sex marriages now taking place in San Francisco, as well as the court and legislative battles in Massachusetts. But, as San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom astutely noted in a television appearance on ABC's *Nightline* Tuesday night, "That train had already left the station." Bush has been hinting about his support for an amendment for months, and famously used his State of the Union address to highlight his view that marriage should be comprised of one man and one woman. Newsom's directive on February 12 for San Francisco to begin issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples was his response to Bush's speech — he was repulsed by the notion of discriminating against a class of people.

It's clear to us — and must be clarified for the rest of the country — that civil same-sex marriages are not a threat to heterosexual unions. That tired argument is the one used most frequently by social conservatives and we must join together to denounce it. It's an absurd argument that fails even cursory examination. As an example, following one of the court hearings in San Francisco when an injunction to halt the marriages was denied, we asked Alliance Defense Fund attorney Robert Tyler — who said he is married — how same-sex marriage threatens his own marriage. He could not answer that question. And he could not answer the question because there is no logical answer.

Marriage is a civilly recognized contract between two people that confers basic rights, protections, and responsibilities; it is not an exclusively religious institution, as marriage licenses are issued by counties not churches. California law allows for clergy as

well as non-clergy to perform ceremonies. While the Knight initiative does recognize marriage in California as being between a man and a woman, the city is challenging the equal protection provisions of the state Constitution to argue that the state should not discriminate on the basis of gender. Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) has also introduced legislation that would prohibit the denial of marriage licenses by the state of California to gay and lesbian couples.

Bush wants to use the U.S. Constitution — the foundation of our government — to codify blatant discrimination. It's painful, it's wrong, and it's definitely not "compassionate," to borrow one of the president's favorite self-descriptions from his 2000 campaign.

Bush's motivation in formally backing such an amendment is obvious. He wants to divert attention away from his bungled war in Iraq. He wants to distract the country from the obviously faulty intelligence regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — or the lack thereof. And he wants blue-collar Americans and the so-called NASCAR dads to forget about the 2.5 million jobs that have been lost on his watch, not to mention

the outsourcing abroad of thousands of white collar jobs by some American companies (and one of his economic advisers calling that a good thing for the country). At its most basic level, Bush's support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage is election-year politics at its worst. It's

also a slap in the face to those who support states' rights (a favorite Republican principle, by the way), and it's once again inserting the federal government into America's bedrooms.

Some political observers have noted that the whole marriage amendment issue could backfire on Bush and the Republican Party.

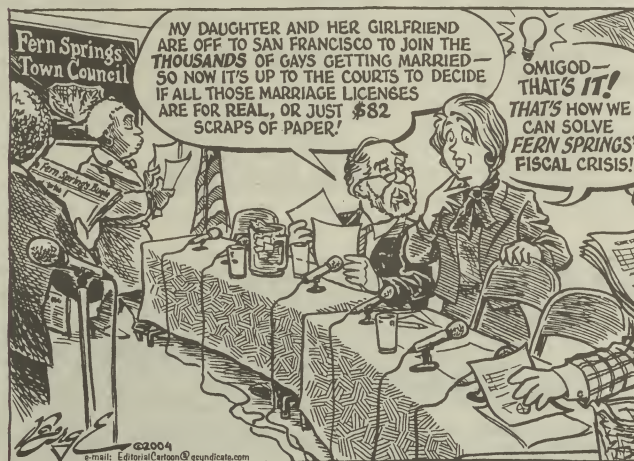
With his announcement this week, Bush revealed that he's intolerant of a whole class of

people and many moderate voters may very well be put off by his stance, much in the way that the GOP was viewed as hostile and intolerant after Pat Buchanan's speech at the 1992 Republican National Convention. Pictures showing ordinary couples overjoyed at getting married in San Francisco have shown the country that there's much more to the gay community than Pride Parades.

But at the end of the day, it's clear to us that the era of complacency is over: we must fight a constitutional amendment. ▼



Editorial



Nader's nadir

by Luke Adams

Tina Fey, on *Saturday Night Live*'s "Weekend Update," February 22, spoke for many people across the country by giving advice to Ralph Nader about his pondering another run for president in 2004. It was a funny, desperately needed bit of truth. "Stay home, nerd," she said, "you're the reason we're in this K-hole to begin with."

For those not in the know, a "K-hole" is what happens when someone has a bad reaction to the street drug ketamine. From various imbalances, the person experiences extreme vertigo — what seems to be an unending drop down a bottomless, claustrophobic hole. That is a keen analogy to the Bush years.

Mr. Bush's political advisers are already plotting propaganda to make Senator John Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War veteran who has served 18 years on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, look like an out-of-touch, radical hippie. Senator Kerry need only reply that he, unlike Mr. Bush, earned his opinions about the Vietnam War. Senator Kerry has done a lot more earning than Bush on a lot of scores, and has a lot more hope of unseating Bush than Nader.

Yet Ralph Nader announced on February 23 that he had decided to run for president as an independent candidate. People who had voted for Nader in 2000 gathered outside his event to protest his decision. As

a former lifelong Democrat who has become a registered Green, I was disgusted with Nader's self-absorbed lack of vision. Were it not for the votes Nader siphoned in key areas, the question of whether Al Gore won the Electoral College in 2000 never would have arisen.

The Green Party has valid reasons for arguing that the "two-party system" is a dying, decaying dinosaur. Greens reasonably want to run viable candidates against slates who have no appreciable differences in policy. The Democratic Party also has a penchant for creating situations in which voters have to hold their noses to vote Democratic, and only do because the Republican is so much scarier.

This time, as an independent, Nader's aides say he is running to bring new things into the Democrats' debate. If Democrats want that, they should vote in the remaining primaries for Senator John Edwards, the candidate most appealing to Greens and other independents, as well as to what Howard Dean called "the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party." If members of other parties want new things — especially Greens — they should write checks or do campaign work for Edwards, and tell Nader to go home.

Part of the problem in American elections is that the two major parties worked for many years to solidify their power grip.

This hurts everyone trying to build coalitions and policy majorities.

The disastrous presidency of George W. Bush has presented us with incoherent and dangerous economic policies, his humanly and financially expensive and unexplained war, the nascent fascism of his Justice Department under the Patriot Act, and some radically right-wing social policies. We have gone from running a federal budget surplus, having the ability to pay down the national debt, rescue the Social Security trust fund, and move our way toward universal health insurance, to again running historical record deficits as far as the eye could see. States are in record financial trouble.

Young women and men in uniform are having their jobs, salaries, and benefits threatened, even as their comrades die in an occupied country which faces a likely choice between civil war and the election of a militant-fundamentalist Islamic regime.

The stakes in 2004 could mean continuing the debacle of the Bush years. The solution is not to run a candidate likely to divide progressive and independent voters. The solution is a united front. ▼

Luke Adams is a licensed naturopath and long-term AIDS survivor living with his partner and their dog in Richmond, California.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Praise for Teng, Newsom

Speaking as a private citizen and not in my capacity as vice president of internal affairs for the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, I wish to offer a couple of rounds of thanks in the city's active involvement in the gay marriage controversy.

My first round of thanks goes to Mabel Teng and her city clerk personnel who are putting in long hours handling the paperwork for the applicants for gender-neutral marriage licenses. Thanks are also in order for Mayor Gavin Newsom for starting the process rolling with his official declaration February 12. I am seriously not Newsom's friend or ally. But for this moment at least, the man deserves acknowledgment for doing a good thing.

My second round of thanks goes to the thousands of couples who have trekked to City Hall to obtain marriage licenses despite vast distances, long waiting hours, and sometimes awful weather conditions. Their actions speak more to the validity of the need to legalize gay marriage than a hundred thousand florid speeches. There's also the symbolic value of sticking a flaming finger in the eyes of the homophobic religious right.

Take a bow, all of you. You deserve it.

Peter Wong
San Francisco

An open letter of gratitude

We were married on President's Day after nine years of courtship and engagement. The experience was the most remarkable we have shared together and we would like to thank the many people who made it all possible:

To the other couples who waited eight hours in line with us, whose presence gave us strength and whose stories inspired us, thank you.

To my old neighbor and his new husband who like many others came out in the cold, wind, and rain to bring hot coffee, doughnuts and bagels to those still waiting in line, thank you.

To the straight guy with his two toddler girls dressed in pink who handed out roses to couples in line, thank you.

To the lesbians with the SUV blaring "We Are Family" while they passed out hot cider, cinnamon muffins, and brownies with equally warm words of encouragement, thank you.

To all the volunteers who apologized for the long wait, showed us which line to get in next, passed out sandwiches, and checked our forms, thank you.

To our celebrant, who encouraged us to take as much time as we needed to reflect on the occasion and cried with us as we kissed, thank you.

To our volunteer witness Mark, whose wife works for the mayor, and who came from Washington, D.C. to witness weddings all weekend, thank you.

To the hundreds of people who cheered and applauded as we exited City Hall – we have never felt such a part of the gay community. Thank you.

But most of all, to Gavin Newsom, thank you for showing us that there are decent people in this city who care more about doing the right thing than doing what is politically expedient. With the simple act of getting married, you've enabled us to show the world that love is stronger than hate. We're very proud to have you as our mayor and you've got our vote for life.

Brett and Jim Martin-Thompson
San Francisco

Marriage should be rational

This whole week, I have felt a lot of pressure to "get married" to my boyfriend of six years and "legitimize" our relationship. This is primarily because I feel that the thousands who could afford to wait in line and pay \$104 are "more equal," "PC," or more proper than the minority who aren't hitched.

Getting married should be a rational process, too. To me, the license I would receive from San Francisco will be an expensive souvenir, reserved for richer people. While California law might support equal protection in general, Proposition 22 clearly does not, and some official action at the state level has to overrule that to make it real. I need to know my license will be honored by other legal authorities before I call myself "married" in formal situations. A marriage license lacking state recognition is really a misnomer, a joke, or a tease, although to Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin (and others), it is a great symbol of unity and can start conversations. Were we wrong to make Gavin Newsom start issuing them immediately? I'm sure he's our hero now. He's doing the right thing, of course, but the wrong way.

We shouldn't feel rushed to get married; it shouldn't be "now or never" get married while you still can. People should have the ability to marry each other if and when they are prepared, emotionally, financially, psychologically, spiritually, etc. Otherwise, people who met a week ago, or shouldn't wed at all, will marry, "before it's too late" or simply to show off, and that's not right. I believe Congressman Barney Frank is the first gay person who has expressed misgivings about the SF setup.

In the end, we may acquire the license, and we hope it becomes "solid" in the future. However, the

photo of my boyfriend and I in Italy with my cousins (our first international trip together) will be one of the most precious things we share together.

Berry West
San Jose, California

Boxer blows it

As an ancient hippie street queer, I must admit that marriage is neither a primary intent nor possibility. In fact, when I first heard about all the freedom to marry hoopla, I thought it was a bunch of assimilationist twaddle. Like Judy Garland died for all this?

But reason prevails – and those who want to hook up instead of shacking up should have the right and freedom to do so. So, I congratulate Mayor Gavin Newsom for his vision and leadership.

Alas, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer is quite another story. Her recent public comments on the issue are spineless and pathetic – and reflect both-sides-of-the-mouth school of old style Democratic Party politics. I think the *Bay Area Reporter* should strongly consider withdrawing its endorsement of her – and the LGBT community should not give her a dime.

As for that "Auntie Tom," U.S. Representative Barney Frank – he should try to get out more often and see how the LGBT community lives beyond the Beltway. Or just shut up.

Dennis Conkin
San Francisco

Senators should dissolve marriages

Our two U.S. senators – Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein – seem dazed by our gay marriages, one declaring that she finds current state law to be fair and appropriate because "it gives equal rights and responsibilities to all citizens" and the other giving school-marm lectures on the proper way to go about trying to change laws. I have a simple proposal for them.

Show leadership and achieve understanding by dissolving your current marriages, dear senators, then apply for domestic partnership status and pledge that you will make use of no benefits that are not available to all citizens in California. I married my partner of 18 years on February 19 in City Hall, thanks to having a mayor able to read the state Constitution and understand it. I promise all elected officials who are married that I will offer them the exact same respect for their marriages that they offer me for mine.

Don Clark, Ph.D.
San Francisco

Election year politics

What was Barbara Boxer thinking, besides "I gotta get re-elected in November and I don't wanna alienate the moderates"?

Instead of side-stepping the issue of same-sex marriage like Nancy Pelosi, Boxer not only comes out against same-sex marriage at a critical historical juncture, but she does so by inanely insisting that California's domestic partnerships are equal to marriage. Either her issues people or her political people are terribly misinformed. Thank you Carole Migden for slamming her and others so powerfully and so quickly.

Word's got to go out to progressives, liberals, moderates, and libertarians of all stripes: In the United States in 2004, on the issue of same-sex marriage, there is no neutral here. Like it or not, this has become the watershed issue in the LGBT movement.

To politicians, Hollywood celebrities, and our families, neighbors, and co-workers: You either support full and equal civil rights and access to all of the institutions of democracy, or you are not on our side. We have no time for cowards, prevaricators, or fair-weather friends. It's time to stand with us in creating change at this historical moment.

Eric Rofes
San Francisco

Kerry's pro-gay record

Gay marriage is a hot topic today, as illustrated by Mayor Newsom's brave decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, but the fight for gay rights has been going on for decades. As long as he has been in Congress, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry has been an ally of gay and lesbian Americans.

Kerry has been a longtime supporter of same-sex civil unions, with the same health benefits, inheritance rights, and survivor benefits that are guaranteed for heterosexual couples.

Moreover, Kerry has taken pro-LGBT positions long before they were popular. In 1985, he introduced a bill prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. During the uproar over Bill Clinton's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, Kerry testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee and called for the president to rescind the ban on openly gay and lesbian service members. In 1996, he was the only senator up for re-election to oppose the Defense of Marriage Act.

As a gay man I truly admire the bravery that Senator Kerry has shown by sticking to his principles, in-

next page ►

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Mailstrom

◀ previous page

cluding gay rights. We in the LGBT community have never had a friend in the White House like John Kerry would be, should he win the Democratic nomination and win the election in November. Haven't we waited long enough?

Dan Goncher
San Francisco

A monumental time

We are all witnessing a monumental time in American history this presidential election year. Everyone in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community will be affected by historic events that will take place in the next few months. We all can be a part of this history. Many of us already are. For the first time in history all the presidential candidates are talking about us openly.

President Bush intends to support a constitutional amendment that will ban same-sex marriage. Such an amendment that states who shall marry and who shall not would be a first in the annals of time in this country if not in any other country throughout the world. Mr. Bush, the war president, has chosen to declare open war on our rights as citizens to be who we are and to have what is ours guaranteed by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence: "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and "that all men are created equal." If he is re-elected and gets his amendment passed he will have a true battle on his hands. The ensuing fight for equal rights would go down in history alongside the American Revolution, the Civil War, the suffragette movement, the civil rights movement, women's liberation, Stonewall, and the events that took place in San Francisco when Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter for assassinating Harvey Milk and George Moscone.

The major Democratic candidates running for president have stated openly that they do not support same-sex marriage but do support other equal rights for the LGBTQ community and will support civil unions for same-sex couples. They say that they do not support Mr. Bush's amendment banning same-sex marriage. This type of open support on the part of any heterosexual politician is a truly monumental event in the history of the United States.

The states of Vermont, Texas, and Massachusetts have taken historic steps in passing legislation or winning court fights supporting equal rights for the LGBTQ communities in those states.

Here in San Francisco the country witnessed another historical event. The mayor openly supported the legal marriage of hundreds of same-sex couples from the Bay Area and beyond. There has never been a Valentines Day and President's Day weekend like it anywhere in the country. Let us hope that history will have a chance to repeat itself next year.

In November the members of the LGBTQ community will have the opportunity to make real history. Historically there has never been an opportunity for the United States to tell just how many of us there are in this country. Now more than ever we all must go out and vote for our equal rights to live and to love as we choose. By doing so for the first time in American history we will all witness an account of how many of us there are, that we all vote and that we are here to fight for our rights as American citizens.

I urge everyone everywhere to vote in this year's presidential election. If that were to happen this country and history will see something never seen before and we all will be a part of it. Do not allow history to write a chapter on LGBTQ rights that will be our last.

Tim Hume
San Francisco

To the governor

Mr. Schwarzenegger: The gay and lesbian population of this country is not going to stop getting married just because you want to impress your Republican friends.

As for breaking the rule of law: You are doing exactly what the Ku Klux Klan did when Rosa Parks refused to go to the back of the bus, just like the law said.

So the next time you get out in public to disparage gay and lesbian marriage, be sure to wear your white pointy hat so you will look the part.

James A. Hahn
San Francisco

No on Props. 57, 58

Since Governor Schwarzenegger has chosen to pontificate upon the actions of the San Francisco mayor's office in regard to the marriage rights of lesbian and gay persons wishing to avail themselves of privileges of civil matrimony, I have a suggestion to all fair-minded persons who have no problem with our community's claim upon these privileges: we should, as a community, vote no on state Propositions 57 and 58, the (heterosexual) fiscal bailout measures.

The polling numbers on these two initiatives are extremely dicey, and since the "Governor" sees fit to stick

his nose into the culture wars, then it is evident that the fiscal crisis is of little importance to him, and he neither requires, nor wants our votes on these measures.

Don't assist California in its efforts to discriminate against us. Vote no on Propositions 57 and 58!

Vince Quackenbush
San Francisco

Changed mind on 57, 58

Given the recent comments by Governor Schwarzenegger regarding the celebrations of same-sex marriage in San Francisco, I have changed my original position and have decided to vote against Propositions 57 and 58. I would like to strongly encourage others in the LGBT community to do the same. I encourage the B.A.R. and our LGBT political organizations to consider changing their endorsements.

I am not blind to the short term risks to education, healthcare and programs if 57 and 58 do not pass. I only ask that we take a longer-term view of the problems facing this state. I just can't see the gay and lesbian community supporting Schwarzenegger out of the state's fiscal crisis, mostly of his own making. I have faith that other means of generating revenue can be found to fund vital programs. I ask my fellow voters to make a long-term investment in eventually removing Schwarzenegger and the Republicans from the governor's office. In the long-term are health-care and education (or LGBT civil rights) really ever safe under a Republican administration? Vote no on 57 and 58.

Aaron M. Chapman, M.D.
San Francisco

Bears gaining visibility

First of all, let me say that I agree with Larry-bob Roberts [Mailstrom, February 12] that bears do not have much visibility, outside or even within the gay community. And if a group is under the radar, they're not going to be targeted by magazines, advertisers, or community groups. I'm not as convinced, however, that this is entirely the doing of outside forces. As part of the bear community for the last six years or so, it seems to me that until recently, most bears have been perfectly content to be out of the public eye. Lately, I think the community has begun to look outside itself.

Last year a group of us who were participating in AIDS/LifeCycle formed TeamBEAR (Bears Engaged Against Retroviruses). The group was well-received by event participants and the benefiting agencies, San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. We wanted to raise the visibility of the bear community, increase the awareness of how HIV/AIDS affects us, and demonstrate that this is a strong, vital part of the larger queer community. Oh, and to have fun doing it. Put together only a few months before the event, we left on the ride with 20 people on the team; 10 more joined during the week on the road.

We're back for AIDS/LifeCycle 3 and the team is getting bigger and better. We'll be holding fundraisers, training, and letting people know that bears are here, we come in all shapes and sizes, and some of us even ride bikes. And that we care about our sexual health. I don't think we have to wait for the outside world to come to us. Check us out at www.teambear.org — and watch for us. We'll be very visible.

W. J. Callahan, TeamBEAR
San Francisco

Poet is okay

Regarding my exposure in Mark Mardon's column ["Marriage & poets," *Calendare*, February 19], much was based on bizarre misstatements, alas. Mark, you must have gotten misinformation about me from a drunk or stoned acquaintance of mine. I refer to the bizarre errors about me in your column. First I want to thank you for the praise about my recently released book, *In The Hub Of The Fiery Force: Collected Poems 1934-2003* (Thunder's Mouth Press, New York), some 630 pages of gay and other experiences in countries where I lived and wrote poetry for several decades. This includes my early teenage poems in my hometown Brooklyn, New York. Thanks for your praises.

Now for the dark side, regarding the errors and distortions about me. I refer to my incapability to give the scheduled reading at City Lights Bookstore. In your column you wrote: "Alas, Norse didn't make the reading, and when people started showing up, all we could find out was that Norse had been nervous about the reading, suffered a heart arrhythmia, and had been taken by friends to the hospital. Apparently he's okay now." I had no heart arrhythmia and didn't go to a hospital.

The facts in your statement were: "Norse had been nervous about the reading" and "he's okay now." I was nervous because I was suffering from dizziness for over a week, making it impossible to give a performance. The next day I received acupuncture and the dizziness stopped. I hope you print this because I may arrange another reading at City Lights and will be able to get there.

Harold Norse
San Francisco

POLITICS

'Super Tuesday' to decide Dem nominee

by Wayne Friday

After more than a year of campaigning by a field that once included 10 candidates, the race for the Democratic presidential nomination has narrowed down to two major candidates – Senator **John Kerry** (Massachusetts) and Senator **John Edwards** (North Carolina) – and the “Super Tuesday” primaries and caucuses being held in 10 states on March 2 should pretty well decide who gets to take on **George W. Bush**, the Republican who was appointed president by the U.S. Supreme Court, in this year’s November general election.

Although Kerry is the acknowledged front-runner and right now has to be considered the likely eventual Democratic nominee, the strong showing by Edwards in the Wisconsin primary has managed to keep him

very much in the running, at least until after next week’s all-important Super Tuesday contests. A total of 1,151 delegates will be chosen Tuesday from states including New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Maryland, and a whopping 370 of those delegates will come from California. Most recent polls show Kerry with a lead in both California and New York and he is also expected to win handily in his home state of Massachusetts. He is reportedly ahead in Ohio.

The bounty of 370 California delegates that will be awarded make this a state that neither Kerry nor Edwards can ignore; the same can be said for New York, which has 236 delegates at stake. Both candidates will be appearing at several stops in California between now and Tuesday.

Kerry has won 18 of 20 primaries and caucuses and is also expected to do very well on Tuesday. Edwards is still very much in the contest despite being well behind Kerry, and Tuesday’s California primary means that state voters will get a taste of the power that it and other populous states like New York deserve.

Politics and people

Campaigning in California: Spokespersons for both Senators John Kerry and John Edwards are claiming that their candidates are not trying to avoid the controversy generated by San Francisco’s issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and both campaigns say their candidates will be in the state before Tuesday. Indeed, U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, state Treasurer **Phil Angelides**, Assemblyman **Mark Leno**, City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, and city Treasurer **Susan Leal** are among top Democrats hosting a VIP fundraiser/reception for Kerry this Friday, February 27 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel (\$1,000 donation asked for the VIP reception shortly before 5 p.m.; \$250 donation asked for the general reception from 5-7 p.m.; 415-355-1474 for info). Following the fundraiser, there’s a public rally for Kerry at the Teamster’s Hall at 7 p.m., 70 Hegenberger Road, in Oakland, near the airport.

The Terminator-turns-liar: I don’t know where myself and the rest of San Francisco was when the same-sex couples applying for marriage licenses were “rioting” in the streets last week or was Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** just flat out lying when he told **Tim Russert** on NBC’s *Meet the Press* last Sunday that “When I was in San Francisco at the Republican convention (it was in Burlingame, incidentally) all of a sudden we see riots, we see protests, we see people clashing. The next thing we know, there is injured or there is dead people.” Say what, governor? This man is a damned liar and should be called for exactly what

he is. How about all of those he lied about on national television Sunday repaying this guy by casting a mild protest “no” vote on two of his favorite state propositions – 57 and 58 – on Tuesday.

After all, Schwarzenegger, during his campaign, said he had all the answers for the financial ills of the state – to hell with him; let him figure it out. He’ll get no help from me.

As the Bush re-election campaign “kicks into high gear” this week, one of the hottest rumors has Vice President **Dick Cheney** being replaced at the GOP convention in New York, which is being held just before the third anniversary of September 11 terrorist attacks, by none other than former NYC Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani**. Bush badly needs to carry New York state in November and this is one rumor that makes some sense.

Marriages continue

The battle over San Francisco’s gay marriages continued this week. As we went to press, the Alliance Defense Fund turning to the California Supreme Court Wednesday, February 25 in an effort to block the city from issuing any more marriage licenses. The case before the high court seeks a court order stopping any more marriages, and also moves to nullify those that have already taken place.

Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** had already planned to go to the state’s high court this Friday. Meanwhile, some conservatives who were behind last year’s gubernatorial recall effort said Tuesday that they were starting a petition drive to recall Lockyer. The attorney general dismissed the move as a “publicity stunt,” in advance of Tuesday’s California primary election in a *New York Times* article.

In a related development, **Mathew Staver** with the Liberty Council said that San Francisco Mayor **Gavin Newsom** should be arrested. Lockyer dismissed that as well. “We don’t need to arrest mayors,” Lockyer told the *Times*. To date, more than 3,300 same-sex licenses have been issued.

Despite the controversy, Mayor Newsom is unwavering in his support of gay marriage. He told **Wolf Blitzer** on CNN’s *Late Edition* Sunday that “I believe very strongly and passionately that we are on the right moral ground; I simply do not believe in discrimination against anyone and if that means my career falls on that belief, then

so be it.”

As for the comments of George W. Bush last week on his “being troubled by what is happening in San Francisco,” Newsom told CNN that “Bush is using this as a wedge issue to divide people, a move to advance a political issue to help get re-elected.” Well said, Mr. Mayor. Newsom also extended an invitation to critics like Bush and Schwarzenegger to “come and meet two women (**Del Martin** and **Phyllis Lyon**) who have been in a committed relationship for 51 years and tell me that is not about love.”

Meanwhile, it really is good to know that the next generation of young California leaders seem poised to take up the fight for gay rights as well. Incredibly, when young high school students from across California gathered recently in Sacramento for the YMCA’s Youth and Government Model Legislature, the very first bill they passed was none other than a proposal to allow same-sex marriages. A touched and very heartened Assemblyman **Mark Leno** congratulated the youth governor, **Kyle Smith**, and the bill sponsor, **Katie Fleming**, during a mock legislative meeting in Governor Schwarzenegger’s office and urged them to personally lobby the real governor to pass Leno’s Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act (AB1967). Leno then accompanied the young students to a rally for Marriage Equality on the West Steps of the Capitol, where Fleming addressed the crowd on the importance of fighting for social justice (from the mouths of the young to the ears of the governor, indeed).

Election news

Word comes from Massachusetts that if Senator John Kerry wins the Democratic presidential nomination and goes on to oust Bush in November, state legislators there are trying to change the law, preventing Republican Governor **Mitt Romney** from naming anyone to fill Kerry’s U.S. Senate seat. Lawmakers are proposing legislation that would leave Kerry’s seat vacant until a special election could be held to fill it, and reliable word has it that Representative **Barney Frank**, an openly gay House member, is already considered the leading Democrat for that possible vacancy, which would make Frank the first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate.

If I were a Republican voting March 2 in the 13th Assembly District, I’d certainly vote to keep respected gay civil rights activist **Christopher Bowman** on the GOP County Central Committee; he’s one of the best.

The San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Club issued its endorsements for the March 2 primary and urge GOP voters to choose **Colin Gallagher** for the 13th Assembly District seat. Gallagher is a former Log Cabin San Francisco president.

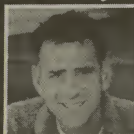
Tuesday is a very important primary election day in California. I strongly urge Assembly District 13 Democrats to cast a vote for Democratic County Central Committee candidates **David Serrano Sewell**, **Roger Gordon**, **David Campos**, **Scott Wiener**, and **Leslie Katz**. Vote as you please, but please vote.

And how was your week? ▼

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Who was Langston Hughes?

by Liz Highleyman

February 1902 (102 years ago this month): Poet Langston Hughes is born in Joplin, Missouri

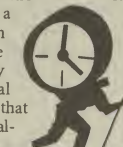
Acknowledged as one of the all-time great American poets, Langston Hughes was a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, a flourishing of African American arts and culture in the 1920s. While many gay, lesbian, and bisexual people were prominent in that movement, Hughes's sexuality remains shrouded in mystery.

James Mercer Langston Hughes was born in 1902 in Joplin, Missouri. His parents divorced when he was young; his father left for Mexico, while his mother moved around seeking work. Hughes spent much of his youth in Lawrence, Kansas, with his grandmother — whose first husband had participated in abolitionist John Brown's raid of the federal arsenal at Harper's

Ferry in 1859 — before moving with his mother to Illinois and later Ohio.

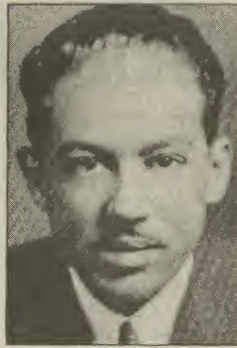
Soon after Hughes graduated from high school, his first published poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," appeared in *Crisis*, the NAACP magazine edited by W.E.B. Dubois. With money from his father, Hughes entered Columbia University in 1921 to study engineering, but he left after a year and immersed himself in the burgeoning scene in Harlem.

He supported himself with odd jobs and traveled widely abroad, working as a steward on a freighter.



Past Out

During his years in Harlem, Hughes was friends with many homosexual or bisexual men, including his mentor, Howard University professor Alain Locke, and Locke's other proteges, fellow poets Countee Cullen, Wallace Thurman, and Richard Bruce Nugent. Locke was known both for helping link young black artists with wealthy white patrons, and for aggressive-



Langston Hughes

ly pursuing those he favored. For a time, Locke's circle lived together in a rooming house dubbed "Niggerati Manor," which developed a reputation for its wild parties. Hughes also maintained a long-term friendship with Carl Van Vechten, an openly homosexual white writer and devotee of Negro culture some 20 years his senior.

While working as a busboy at a Washington, D.C., hotel in 1925, Hughes slipped three of his poems to a customer — well-known white poet Vachel Lindsay — who went on to promote Hughes's work and introduce him to publishers. Later, Hughes would benefit from the patronage of Charlotte Mason, a wealthy, older white woman. But after the publication of his first novel in 1930, he rebelled against her control and thereafter supported himself as a writer.

In addition to poetry and fiction, Hughes also wrote political essays, historical works, children's books, stage plays, and even an opera. His work utilized elements of African American folk tales and musical styles such as jazz and the blues, portraying the experiences and struggles of blacks in America and their quest for racial justice. But some African American critics decried Hughes's use of black dialect and his focus on "low-down folks," considering them to be caricatures.

Like many of his contemporaries, Hughes adopted radical politics in the 1930s. He supported the labor movement, praised the Soviet Union (where he lived for a year), covered the Spanish Civil War as a journalist, and wrote for several left-wing publications. In 1953, toward the end of the McCarthy era, he was subpoenaed to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations, where Roy Cohn (later revealed to be a closeted homosexual) demanded that Hughes defend past works such as "Ballads of Lenin" and "Goodbye Christ."

After maintaining that he had never formally joined the Communist Party and insisting that his views had changed, Hughes was cleared by the Senate committee and his career survived, although some radicals felt he had sold out. But his work never lost its edge. "What happens to a dream deferred?" Hughes asked in a 1951 collection. "Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun...Or does it explode?" *The Panther and the Lash*, a book of poems published after Hughes's death following prostate surgery in 1967, reflected the militancy of the era's emerging Black Power movement.

Although open about his politics, Hughes was always circumspect about his private life. While Hughes and Van Vechten corre-

Open Letter to Senator Barbara Boxer

Dear Senator,

For more years than we can remember, we have been your loyal supporters. We first campaigned and voted for you when we lived in Sausalito and you ran for Congress in Marin. When we moved to San Francisco, we were delighted when your congressional district was changed to include our neighborhood in The City.

It was always our joy to go to the Gay Freedom Day Parade and cheer you as your car drove down the street in testament to your support and solidarity with the Gay Community. We understood when you disappeared from the parade after you were elected senator, because we were very proud of you when you opposed Jesse Helms on the Senate floor for his homophobia. We even continued to be your loyal supporters when you made your stand on capital punishment known, even though we morally disagreed with that position and still do.

Now, however, you have taken a stand against the Gay Community with your refusal to either support same-sex marriage or remain publicly silent on the issue. We realize you probably believe in this viewpoint and that upsets us greatly. However, we suspect that this is mostly a political stand to defuse the issue for your reelection campaign and that angers us. We have been together as a couple almost 29 years. It was our great honor to go through a domestic partnership ceremony at City Hall in March, 2000, for our 25th anniversary, and we look forward to being married this March on our 29th anniversary.

Politicians like you must understand that you can not use the support and money of the Gay Community to gain power in the good times. We expect you to stay our friends and supporters in the difficult times as well. Since you have seemingly turned against us as a Gay couple, who should have the legal right to marry, we can no longer support you politically and will not be voting for you in the primary election March 2. If you maintain your anti-gay position on same-sex marriage, we may not vote for you in November either.

We also urge all of our friends, the entire Gay Community and all other Democratic voters to boycott you on March 2 by not casting a ballot for you in the Democratic senatorial primary.

Sincerely,
Gary and Donald Palm-Ridone

ALICE B. TOKLAS LGBT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Democratic Primary Election Guide • VOTE Tuesday, March 2



▼ Mark Leno

A MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYMAN MARK LENO:

"Republicans in Sacramento and Washington are trying to slash vital health care programs, environmental protections and education funding. Republicans are turning back the clock and attacking a woman's right to choose. They're prosecuting medical marijuana patients and growers. Worst of all for our LGBT community, they're working overtime to turn gay marriage into the divisive issue that they believe will assure George Bush's re-election."

"Democrats across the nation are looking to San Francisco Democrats to provide the margin of victory in California for the Democratic presidential nominee and for Senator Barbara Boxer. A strong Democratic County Central Committee can make the difference."

"That's why I urge you to vote for the progressive and effective candidates listed here."

Alice-endorsed LGBT candidates for Democratic County Central Committee

(Top row, 13th District • bottom row, 12th District • Complete list of candidates are in the clip-out box below)



▼ David Campos



▼ Catherine Dodd



▼ Robert Haaland



▼ Leslie Katz



▼ Esther Lee



▼ Rafael Mandelman



▼ Owen Stephens



▼ Scott Wiener



▼ Joel Luebke



▼ Connie O'Connor



▼ Jay Shaffer

YES on Prop 56

End budget gridlock. If budget is late, no pay for legislators until budget is passed. Teachers, nurses and the Democratic Party urge you to vote YES on 56.

YES on Props 57/58

Protect vital programs like education and public safety.

YES on 57/58 consolidates past deficits and avoids deeper cuts to education and public safety programs. Teachers, labor, seniors and Democratic officials, including Senator Dianne Feinstein, State Controller Steve Westly and Assemblyman Mark Leno say YES on 57/58.

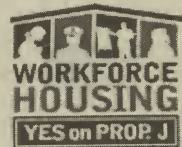
"We need Props 57 and 58 to avoid drastic budget cuts to education, healthcare and public safety. A YES vote on 57 and 58 will protect the services Californians care about and get the state's finances back on track." —ASSEMBLYMAN MARK LENO



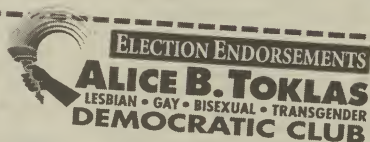
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YES on Prop F

Fair negotiations for Deputy Sheriffs



Affordable housing for SF working families.



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U.S. Congress, District 8 Nancy Pelosi
U.S. Congress, District 12 Tom Lantos
State Senate, District 3 ▼ Carole Migden
Assemblymember, District 12 Leland Yee
Assemblymember, District 13 ▼ Mark Leno

Democratic County Central Committee, 12th AD, West Side, in ballot order

Phillip Ginsburg
▼ Jay Shaffer
Meagan Levitan
▼ Joel Luebke
Malik Looper
Dan Kalb
▼ Connie O'Connor
Dan Dunnigan
Tom Hsieh
José Medina
Jane Morrison
Mary Jung

▼ designates LGBT candidates

Democratic County Central Committee, 13th AD, East Side, in ballot order

Roger Gordon
David Serrano Sewell
▼ Owen Stephens
▼ Esther Lee
▼ David Campos
▼ Leslie Katz
▼ Scott Wiener
Sue Bierman
Julie Brandt
▼ Catherine Dodd
▼ Robert Haaland
▼ Rafael Mandelman

USE THIS GUIDE WHEN YOU VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 2

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 55 Upgrade public school and college facilities YES
Prop 56 End budget gridlock YES
Prop 57 Prevent drastic cuts in public healthcare, education YES
Prop 58 Require a balanced State budget YES

REGIONAL BALLOT MEASURE

Prop 2 Fund regional transportation improvements YES

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A Deferred taxation plan YES
Prop B Fair retirement benefits for criminal justice employees YES
Prop C Civilian jobs in the police department No Position
Prop D Equal treatment for Domestic Partners YES
Prop E Protect SF citizens from Ashcroft and Patriot Act YES
Prop F Labor negotiations with Deputy Sheriffs YES
Prop G Supplemental pay for City employees on military duty YES
Prop H Public education funding YES
Prop I The wrong political process to replace diesel buses NO
Prop J Incentives to build below-market-rate housing YES

LGBT candidates vie for SF central committee seats

by Zak Szymanski

Sitting on a political party's central committee may not be the most well-known office one can hold, but it is certainly one of the most influential.

As the bodies that set the tone for and endorse the candidates of the local party, central committees consist of elected officials as well as those who are elected citywide to serve on them.

In the March primary, numerous openly LGBT candidates are running to serve on the Democratic County Central Committee. LGBT people are also running for seats on the central committees of the Republican and Green parties.

Below are the profiles of those who responded to the *Bay Area Reporter's* request for information.

DCCC 12th A.D.

Connie O'Connor

Up for re-election in the 12th Assembly District, O'Connor said she is running for DCCC to continue to be a part of the decision making process, and to "help rebuild the Democratic Party in San Francisco."

O'Connor is a captain in the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, and is a past co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, positions that have required the ability to build coalitions and promote diversity.

A long-term incumbent and current vice chair of the DCCC, O'Connor wants to focus on voter turnout and promoting Democrats and political activists. She also believes experience and visibility are important, and she wants "to

see the LGBT community continue to have an elected voice in the 12th District."

DCCC 13th A.D.

Bill Barnes

As an openly gay, HIV-positive, African American on the DCCC, Barnes gives voice to a variety of communities, and is seeking re-election in order to "elect a Democratic president, send Carole Migden to the state Senate, and fight for lesbian and gay equality within the Democratic Party."

Barnes currently serves as a legislative aide to Supervisor Chris Daly, and he is often seen throughout the community articulating and soliciting ideas on important issues related to civil rights, healthcare, housing, and economic development.

A current member of DCCC, he wants to remain on the committee in part, he said, "to ensure that our community remains well represented in local party politics."

Kirsten Boyd

This seemingly tireless lesbian activist and community advocate has spent the past four years working for former Assemblywoman and current Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden.

She is on the board of directors for the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee; is a former member of the LGBT Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Commission; has served as PAC co-chair of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; and has been involved in several community organizations such as the Women's Cancer Resource Center and Under One Roof.

She is running for DCCC, she said, "to pull the Democratic Party to the left, where it belongs."

More information is available at www.kirstenboyd.org.

David Campos

Campos is a deputy city attorney, and as such, may very well find himself involved in defending San Francisco's recent decision to offer same-sex marriage licenses, working from an office "that is be-

hind that decision 100 percent."

Until then, he is seeking a seat on the DCCC as a lawyer with extensive community-based experience, including serving as co-chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, the largest LGBT attorneys association in the country. Campos has served as legal counsel to the San Francisco Board of Education, and currently handles the city's lawsuit against PG&E.

Campos is running in part, he said, "to make sure that the DCCC remains responsive to issues affecting the LGBT community."

James Cassiol

Cassiol has a recent history of working on successful political campaigns, including Proposition N or Care Not Cash, and Newsum's mayoral election.

Employed in the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, he is also a member of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association; Castro Area Planning and Action; Plan C; Tenants for Home Ownership; Small Property Owners of San Francisco; the Alice Club; and the Mexican American Political Association.

He is running for DCCC, "to put the 'D' back in the DCCC," he said. "With the Green Party gaining momentum, the Republicans in Sacramento and George W. Bush in the White House, it's time to strengthen the Democratic Party which has a long history of supporting so many of our common goals and ideals. They say things start here in San Francisco, then spread through the rest of the United States."

Ryan Clary

A longtime HIV/AIDS advocate and former officer of the Milk Club, Clary is a co-founder of the "Save ADAP" coalition, and has organized around a variety of LGBT civil rights campaigns, including the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance and the successful protests against Laura Schlesinger's failed television show.

Emphasizing his ability to work with all sectors of the party, Clary said he is running as a "proven community organizer who can re-focus the local Democratic Party's attention on coordinating a massive voter registration and GOTV campaign to take back the White House, stop Governor Schwarzenegger's AIDS cuts, and fight the religious right."

Gilbert Criswell

A 15-year member of the Milk Club, and former LGBT freelance writer and television program volunteer, Criswell is running for the

DCCC as an HIV-positive candidate in favor of gay marriage as well as lifting the ban on bathhouses in San Francisco.

Most of all, Criswell is running as a passionate party loyalist, who believes that "throughout our history the Democratic Party has fought hard to improve the lives of all Americans ... improving wages and working conditions, and advancing justice and equality."

A District 6 resident, Criswell says he brings issues of diversity to the Democratic Party and that he will "continue San Francisco's legacy of advancing strong democratic values."

Catherine Dodd

As a health policy expert and advocate, Dodd served in the Clinton administration as the regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is currently a doctoral student at UCSF studying hospice policy. She works as U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi's (D-San Francisco) district director.

An active Democrat, civil rights, and healthcare advocate for over 20 years, she was a founder of the Nurses Coalition on AIDS at the beginning of the epidemic, which influenced state and national HIV/AIDS policy decisions.

Dodd is running for DCCC because she believes "the fight is in Sacramento and Washington DC now, the votes are too close, and every vote counts."

Michael Goldstein

As current president of the Milk Club, Goldstein represents more left-leaning Democratic values, yet emphasizes working with the system in order to change the party and the future of politics.

"As a member of the DCCC, I will support marriage equality, work to keep district elections intact, and strive to strengthen the Democratic Party from within through actual reform," he said.

Goldstein is a longtime community activist, and a former client advocate at AIDS Legal Referral Panel and benefits counselor at Positive Resource Center.

Robert Haaland

Former Milk Club president and a well-known housing and labor organizer, Haaland is up for re-election to the DCCC. His original victory made him the city's first transgender elected official.

Haaland has helped to spearhead several local lefty campaigns, including the write-in campaign for mayoral candidate Tom Am-

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Drag king assault suspect pleads guilty

by Zak Szymanski

After 18 months of reliving their trauma and appearing in court to insist that hate crime charges stick against the defendant, victims of the brutal beating that took place at the 2002 San Francisco Drag King contest finally have some closure.

Jack Broughton of Walnut Creek pleaded guilty to all counts against him – including inflicting great bodily injury and a felony hate crime charge – in San Francisco Superior Court on Wednesday, February 18. The dramatic turn of events came after months of legal wrangling over the hate crime charge and just days after a jury had already been selected for his trial.

According to witnesses of the attack, Broughton brutally beat victim Yvette Balderas and assaulted her friend Mariah Sparks outside the drag king show at the Studio Z nightclub in the South of Market District in August 2002 while uttering homophobic remarks. He then proceeded to walk to the Eagle bar and allegedly verbally assaulted the patrons there.

The victims, as well as Community United Against Violence, credited the district attorney's office for remaining vigilant about following through on the case and refusing to accept plea bargains that did not include the hate crime charge.

Also important, they said, was the continuous show of community support; hearing after hearing, dozens of LGBT people and

allies sat in the courtroom – all wearing red – to show the judges and the defense that the community was invested in the case.

Last week, Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin agreed to accept Broughton's guilty plea. Sentencing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, at 9 a.m. in Department 26 at the Hall of Justice, at which time victim impact statements likely will be read.

CUAV is encouraging individuals, community groups, and social justice organizations to make an appearance for the sentencing hearing and to wear red in solidarity with the victims. Broughton faces up to 10 years in prison, although his attorney has requested a sentence of one year, which could be served as home detention.

"My family and I are relieved not to have to relive the trauma through testifying. We are also extremely satisfied with the fact that he has admitted to the hateful motivation behind his actions," said a statement from Prado Gomez, the partner of Sparks. "The final decision rests with the judge. We may have an opportunity to express the hurt caused by this incident at the sentencing hearing. So, we are asking folks to attend court one last time to participate in the closure of this process."

Broughton also will be required to pay restitution to the victims, to a state victim fund, and to a community-based agency that focuses on preventing hate crimes. He will be mandated to complete an anger management counseling program in Contra Costa County, according to CUAV, and he has restraining orders prohibiting him from being within 100 yards of the survivors, Studio Z, and the Eagle. Broughton still faces a civil suit brought by the survivors in the case. ▼

Political prisoner benefit this Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

Susan Rosenberg – an anti-war activist imprisoned in 1984 and released only by President Bill Clinton's last-minute executive clemency order in 2001 – will be the featured speaker at the annual "Sparks Fly" event in honor of women political prisoners, held this Saturday, February 28, at the Mission Cultural

Center.

This will be Rosenberg's first public appearance since her release in 2000. Other special guests include activist Yuri Kochiyama and performers Gwen Avery, Mary Watkins, and Maisha Quint.

Sparks Fly begins at 7:30 p.m. and the Mission Cultural Center is located at 2868 Mission Street in San Francisco. Admission is \$10-\$25; no one is turned away for lack of funds. ▼

DCCC

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miano in 1999; a public power initiative in 2001; and a variety of affordable housing and tenant protections. He is known for accomplishing the impossible, by helping to unite both the Milk and Alice clubs to work together for issues on which both clubs agree.

Of his qualifications to continue to serve in office, Haaland said, "I have done my best to try to bring people, even those with whom I disagree, together for what I believe is best for our community."

Jason Hinson

As a renter who earns a living working in property management, Hinson is often privy to experiencing both sides of a debate. He wants to take that lens and apply it to a variety of San Francisco issues, including LGBT rights, homelessness, and police reform. And he would like to find a common ground with regard to tenants rights and property owner's rights.

A strong supporter of Mayor Gavin Newsom, Hinson is running, he said, mainly because he is

upset with some members of the DCCC who chose to support Green Party candidate Matt Gonzalez for mayor.

"It's ridiculous. The Democratic Central Committee is just that – for the Democratic Party," said Hinson of his motivation to run. "It really needs to endorse Democratic candidates, no matter what."

Dennis Isner

In 1997 Isner began his political career when he was appointed by then-Supervisor Gavin Newsom to the San Francisco Youth Commission, a position that allowed him to advocate for higher teacher's raises, co-author legislation, and participate in community hearings on homelessness and substance abuse.

A recent intern for city Treasurer Susan Leal, Isner is also vice president of the North of Market Planning Coalition, and administrative officer for the Alliance for a Better District 6. He is also an active member on the speaker's bureau for Community United Against Violence.

"It is important, now more than ever, that we work toward common goals to further the

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NATIONAL NEWS

Gay marriage activity outside San Francisco

by Bob Roehr

Shock waves continue to radiate from the celebration of gay and lesbian marriages in San Francisco.

New Mexico

In Sandoval County, New Mexico, the county clerk issued marriage licenses to 68 same-sex couples on Friday, February 20. County Clerk Victoria Dunlap, a Republican, feared the state's gender-neutral marriage law left her open to being sued for discrimination if she did not issue the licenses to same-sex couples. She asked the county attorney if state law prohibited her from issuing the licenses, and when he said no, she started issuing them.

Later that day the state attorney general declared the licenses invalid and Dunlap stopped issuing them. Governor Bill Richardson, sometimes mentioned as a possible vice presidential nominee on the Democratic ticket, said he feels that marriage should be reserved for a man and a woman.

The recently married couples are discussing possible legal action.

Chicago

Chicago gays and lesbians gained an unexpected ally when Democratic Mayor Richard Daley said he had "no problem" with gay marriage. He didn't buy the argument that it undermines traditional marriage.

"Marriage has been undermined by divorce, so don't tell me about marriage," he said, according to the Associated Press. "Don't blame the gay and lesbian, transgender and transsexual community. In the long run, we have to understand what they're saying. They love each other just as much as anyone else."

Daley, however, said his hands were tied; marriage licenses are issued by the county, not the city. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich (D) has said, "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman and it's sacred and it's an institution that's the core of our society."

Maryland

Maryland residents James Packard and Erwin Gomez told the *Washington Post* they are prepared to file joint tax returns, refile the title on their townhouse, and take whatever legal action is necessary to force the state to recognize their marriage.

They are discussing the issues with the Maryland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The current state marriage law is gender neutral.

A pair of same-sex couples from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., who married in San Francisco were scheduled to testify before the Maryland Legislature on February 25. The hearing is to consider a bill by Baltimore Democrat Emmett Burns Jr. that would render invalid same-sex marriages performed outside the state, as well as a proposed constitutional amendment by Cecil County Republican Charles Boutin that would limit marriage to a man and a woman.

A pair of same-sex couples from the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., who married in San Francisco were scheduled to testify before the Maryland Legislature on February 25. The hearing is to consider a bill by Baltimore Democrat Emmett Burns Jr. that would render invalid same-sex marriages performed outside the state, as well as a proposed constitutional amendment by Cecil County Republican Charles Boutin that would limit marriage to a man and a woman.

New York

New York is girding itself as another potential battleground for gay marriage. That state's marriage law is gender neutral and allows for same-sex marriage, according to a report of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York published in 1997 and reaffirmed in 2001.

Lawrence C. Moss, a Manhattan attorney and activist, pushed for the immediate issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in an op-ed in the February 16 edition of the *New York Daily News*. He argued that not to do so violates the equal protection clause of the state Constitution, a finding consistent with rulings by state courts in Hawaii, Alaska, and Massachusetts.

Republican Mayor Michael Bloomberg has waffled on the subject, indicating that he will not follow the lead of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and issue marriage licenses to gay couples. The New York LGBT community is holding a meeting on February 27 to discuss ways of putting pressure on Bloomberg to change his mind. It also is putting pressure on New York's two Democratic senators, Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer, to express their opposition to the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment.

On March 3, openly gay state Senator Thomas K. Duane plans to hold a public forum on the subject at the state Capitol in Albany.

The state's attorney general, Eliot Spitzer, declared his support for same-sex marriage during his 1998 campaign. He is a likely candidate for governor in 2006, but has yet to comment on whether New York's existing marriage law

allows for same-sex weddings.

Massachusetts

In Massachusetts, the maneuvering on amending the state Constitution to prevent same-sex marriage is on virtual hiatus awaiting the next joint session of the Legislature sitting as a constitutional convention on March 11.

The latest poll by the *Boston Globe* shows opposition to gay marriage growing by 10 percentage points from an earlier poll taken in November. It is rather common for those numbers to change when issues play prominently in the news. The most recent survey of 400 adults shows 35 percent supporting legalizing gay marriage and 53 percent opposed.

Even more interesting is that when it comes to a solution, the public is just as divided as the legislators were earlier this month, with none of the three options gaining a majority.

A constitutional amendment to restrict marriage to heterosexuals drew the support of 45 percent and opposition from 47 percent.

A "compromise" that would retain the word marriage for heterosexuals but require the creation of civil unions for same-sex couples drew 49 percent support and 36 percent opposition.

A variation that would leave creation of civil unions up to the Legislature drew only 30 percent support, with 55 percent rejecting it.

The survey also found that economic issues were a far more important priority for most Massachusetts voters. Only 7 percent called gay marriage one of their priorities.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, King Norodom Sihanouk said Friday, February 20 that homosexual couples should be allowed to get married. He issued the statement after watching television images of gay and lesbian couples getting married in San Francisco, the Associated Press reported.

Since the Cambodian government chose in 1993 to be a "liberal democracy," it should allow "marriage between man and man ... or between woman and woman," the king said in a signed statement in French posted on his Web site.

Sihanouk is a constitutional monarch with no executive powers but is highly respected in his country. Gay couples are not allowed to marry in Cambodia. ▼

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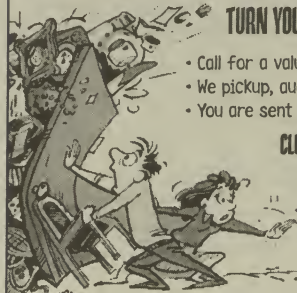
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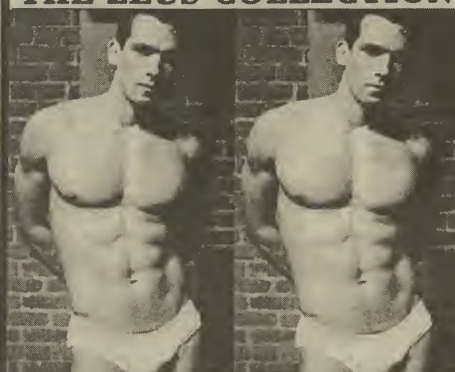
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'Out 4 Justice' Pride marshals nominated

by Zak Szymanski

There couldn't be a more appropriate theme for this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration than "Out 4 Justice," and the 10 individuals – and five organizations – selected by the community as potential grand marshals all embody their own rendition of this statement.

Calvin Gipson



As a past president of SFLGBT Pride, Gipson helped the event to grow in numbers, diversity, and visibility, but it is his "other" life as an activist and advocate for which many community members feel most grateful.

As managing director of human services for Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, he directs the daily free meals program that annually serves over 1 million free nutritious meals to the poor. The program also hires people from the street to help in the effort, giving survivors of violence, addiction, and homelessness a second chance to rebuild their lives.

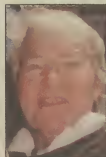
Gipson said his personal goal is

to be "the most out gay black man in San Francisco while giving visibility to the black LGBT community."

Gipson has provided 12 years of leadership in various LGBT organizations including serving as president of Frameline – SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival; as a board member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus; and on the speaker's bureau for Community United Against Violence.

On his grand marshal nomination, Gipson said, "I am absolutely thrilled, ecstatic, and honored by my nomination. I came to San Francisco like so many LGBT people to find freedom. I'm truly thankful to be part of such a dynamic and wonderful community."

Trevor Hailey



Visitors and locals alike have all benefited from the presence of longtime San Franciscan Trevor Hailey, who for 15 years has conducted the world-famous "Cruisin' the Castro" walking tours of the gayest neighborhood in America.

Hailey said her walking tours come from a sense of duty and purpose; that "I really feel I've been given a gift to take information that I feel passionately about and use it to help others."

GLBT history, said Hailey, is important to build a sense of self and to build bridges between communities.

"If you don't know your own culture, then you don't know who you are," she said. "People find the information affirming and validating; one guy told me my tour helped him more than 10 years in therapy had."

Hailey's tours are on a winter sabbatical, but she looks forward to reinvigorating them in June.

On her grand marshal nomination, said Hailey, "I am absolutely thrilled to death. I'm fortunate that the tour has been recognized and commended in a variety of ways, but this would be the crème de la crème, the highlight of being a member of the gay community."

Heklina



It has been called a "delightful mess"; "offensive"; and "Best Drag Club," but Trannyshack regulars and San Francisco visitors know it as a community institution that celebrates individuality and provides a niche space for genderqueers and theatrical types alike.

Anyone who has loved – or hated – the 8-year-old award-winning Trannyshack party at the Stud bar owes it all to Heklina, the club's co-founder and tireless hostess who also organizes yearly Trannyshack trips to Reno and operates a Web site at Heklina.com to "serve as a portal for not only Trannyshack, but also other interesting events for our obscure, underserved communi-

ty."

A community mainstay and legend in her own time, Heklina also donates much of her time to charitable benefits, and she has appeared on the *Ricki Lake* and *Jerry Springer* shows, the E! and BBC networks, and will be featured in an upcoming VH-1 special.

Of her grand marshal nomination, Heklina said, "I'm flattered. I think it would be great to be a part of Pride in that capacity."

L.A. 'Happy' Hyder



When artist-activist L.A. "Happy" Hyder first came out in 1981, she was known throughout the community as "the Arab lesbian." It is an identity that has "had its moments," laughed Hyder, who has used her own experiences to bring attention to the intersections of race and sexual orientation at various panels and conferences, and has gladly participated in the growing network of LGBT Arab people.

Yet Hyder is most known for her inexhaustible artistic endeavors, which include offering opportunities to – and promoting the work of – emerging creators, through the nonprofit organization Lesbians in the Visual Arts, which she founded in 1990.

A photographer and visual artist for 35 years, Hyder organizes exhibits and support for women artists, and said that much of her work centers around convincing the better-salaried in the community to purchase living, local work.

Hyder's open studios, which showcase her work, are held every second weekend of the month at 386 Noe Street.

On her grand marshal nomination, Hyder said she is "excited."

"I think it's fantastic, and fun. I was surprised," she said, adding that she's been telling everyone she knows and hopes to "ride in a red convertible" at the parade.

Tony Koester



Leather Daddy XX Tony Koester is known for his personal dedication to the community. He hosts an annual Easter basket auction drive at Daddy's bar for the Stop AIDS Project; throws himself a 39th birthday party every year as a fundraiser and food drive for Project Open Hand; and in his one-year stint as the Leather Daddy title holder last year, he was able to raise about \$25,000 in charitable contributions.

A recent recipient of the "Man of the Year" award from the Interclub Fund, Koester also sits on the board of the Stop AIDS Project and is the "token" male on the SF Leather Dyke Family Charities board.

On his grand marshal nomination, Koester said, "It's an honor."

"I'm actually kind of humbled by it; I do the work that I do because I love it."

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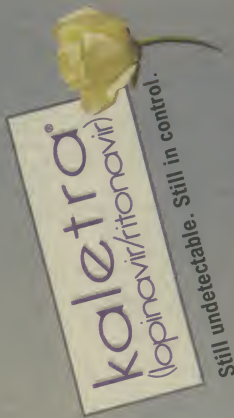
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References: 1. DHHS. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-infected adults and adolescents, July 14, 2002. 2. DHHS. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-infected adults and adolescents, July 14, 2002.

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Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and it check up. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tease) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.

- Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergometrine and methylethergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergostat Maleate, Methergine, and others
- Halicet® (triazolam)
- Hismax® (tizanidine)
- Orap® (pimozide)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Rhythol® (propafenone)
- Seldane® (terfenadine)
- Tambocor™ (flecainide)
- Veracel® (mizolam)

- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

- Efavirenz (Sustiva®) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.

- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

- KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abdominal pain, abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant: The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding: Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems: If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes: Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia: Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

DCCC

◀ page 16

growth of the party and the city," said Isner. "The DCCC needs to work harder building coalitions, bridging gaps within the party and bringing everyone to the table. I will work to do this and increase voter registration and turn out."

Leslie Katz

Former Supervisor Leslie Katz, a longtime DCCC member, has a long history of advocating for successful legislation; as supervisor, she co-authored the landmark equal benefits ordinance, and as a current board member of Equality California she has overseen the statewide passage of several major and historic LGBT bills in the last year.

Katz is running for re-election to DCCC because she believes "the Democratic Party best represents the issues of importance to those who have been disenfranchised. I want to make sure we stay on the forefront of advocating for progressive positions."

Katz's focus will also include increasing voter turnout regionally and nationwide.

"The Democratic Party embraces an array of constituencies, fights for social justice, for jobs, for a strong economy, for education, for healthcare, for labor, for families, and for a clean and safe environment," said Katz. "The DCCC needs to educate voters that these are our priorities and that a strong voter turnout is essential to preserving the objectives."

Esther Lee

Never without a political or activist project in the works, longtime LGBT advocate Lee said she is running for DCCC because, "I've never felt so passionate about the need for positive change at the local level than I do when I see the waning electoral power of the Democratic Party in a Democratic base like San Francisco. 2004 is too important a year to keep allowing the infighting of ideological warfare to continue."

Lee, a constituent case worker for state Senator John Burton (D-San Francisco), is a former board member of LYRIC; the founding co-chair of Equality California; past co-chair and current board member of the Alice Club; a past board member of the Asian Pacific Democratic Club; and a current member of the Jewish Community Fund. Other memberships include the National Women's Political Caucus and the San Francisco Women's Political Committee.

Rafael Mandelman

Mandelman is an affordable housing attorney; president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club; a board member of the Alice Club; "and an all-around swell fella."

A San Francisco native, Mandelman said he is running for DCCC "to help build a local party that is respectful of the aspirations and ideals of liberal and progressive voters, and to help heal the divide between economic and social justice activists and party insiders."

Holli Thier

Thier is a past president of the city's League of Women Voters, a civil rights attorney, a neighborhood business owner, and founder of Voting Counts, a non-profit dedicated to getting youth between 18-24 to the polls.

She has been elected to the DCCC three times and is seeking another term "to be a strong progressive voice for women, for gay rights, for San Francisco and all of California."

Past activism includes fighting to preserve bilingual education, and teaching HIV/AIDS information throughout synagogues. She is a member of both the Milk and Alice clubs; and served on the board of the Horizons Foundation and EQCA.

"Together we have fought for funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, for the freedom to marry, for the legalization of marijuana, against right wing attempts to limit our rights, and we have stood strong together against discrimination in all its ugly forms against us and those we love," said Thier.

Scott Wiener

Castro resident Scott Wiener has a long history of political organizing and community activism, from providing pro bono legal assistance to indigent tenants facing eviction, to co-representing Sharon Smith in her civil lawsuit based on the dog-mauling death of her partner Diane Whipple.

Currently working for the city attorney's office, Wiener is also co-chair of the board of directors of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center; is a member of the Alice Club; a past board member of BALIF; and serves on the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign.

Wiener is running for DCCC to strengthen the party so that fewer people will "decline to state" or register as third party voters.

"The party must provide these voters with a reason to return to the fold - to convince them that a progressive political agenda will best be achieved by having a strong and broad-based Democratic Party."

ratio Party."

More information is available at www.scottwiener.com.

RCCC 13 A.D.

Christopher L. Bowman

Bowman is well aware that he is speaking to the San Francisco minority when he asks for attention to issues from a Republican viewpoint. Nevertheless, the gay Republican candidate appeals to the 2,400 or so LGBT Republicans in the city when he emphasizes the importance of re-electing him to the RCCC.

A longtime Log Cabin Republican, Bowman was active in the efforts to defeat the Briggs initiative and lift the ban on LGBT soldiers in the military.

He counts among his many achievements the ability to educate Republican leaders on the importance of LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues.

"It is important that we continue to have a presence with my re-election, and with the election of Colin Gallagher, who is running in a contested race for the 13th Assembly District Republican nomination," said Bowman. "Together we can make a difference to keep the San Francisco Republican Party on a moderate, LGBT-friendly, 'big tent' course." ▼

Other openly LGBT candidates for DCCC include Shawn O'Hearn and Greg Shaw, of the 13th District. Additionally, Marc Salomon is running as an LGBT candidate for the Green Party's Central Committee. These candidates could not be reached or did not respond to the B.A.R. by press time.

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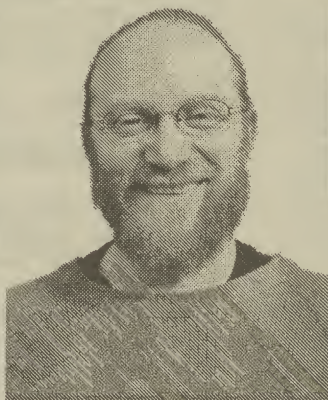
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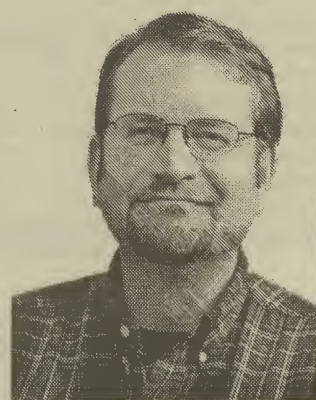
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- Social Worker
- Board of Directors, San Francisco Community Land Trust
- Strong advocate for public and higher education
- Constituent Caseworker for then Assemblywoman Carole Migden
- LGBT Candidate

Paid for by Bruce Wolfe for DCCC 2004
Bruce Wolfe, Treasurer, FPPC# pending



Rick Galbreath

Endorsed by
Sheriff Mike Hennessey

- Long time Democratic Party Activist: Walked first precincts for Walter Mondale & Geraldine Ferraro
- Strong advocate of Civil/LGBT/Marriage rights
- City Hall volunteer: constituent services
- Past non-profit arts board member
- LGBT Candidate

Paid for by Galbreath for DCCC
Rick Galbreath, Treasurer, FPPC# 2162216

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Grand marshals

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'Fetish Diva' Midori



own local SM and human sexuality educator turned world-famous icon.

Born in Japan and raised in a feminist intellectual household, Midori moved to the United States as a teenager, earning a psychology degree from the University of California at Berkeley, which served as a handy foundation for her work as a sex educator with various Bay Area organizations.

Midori travels the world giving presentations on safe sexual play and human expression, and she operates www.fetishdiva.com, a Web site that includes a gallery of images and basic information. She also offers private and group instruction.

"Midori has an impact on many different people," said her

nomination form for the grand marshal honor. "She teaches people acceptance and respect - and to value our differences."

Kate Raphael



Longtime community activist Kate Raphael takes the word "queer" to heart - embracing it as a political term that encompasses fighting for issues that are not always gay-specific.

Raphael, a Jew, made headlines last year for her time spent in Palestine, where she stayed with families whose homes and lives were in jeopardy of Israeli military occupation. While there, she acted as an educator, bringing Israelis on guided tours through occupied villages. She promoted peace and understanding between the cultures, and wrote frequent reports to Internet communities about her observations.

Raphael recently made news again when it was reported that she had been arrested and detained in Israel for her part in a nonviolent demonstration. Although threatened with deporta-

tion, she eventually won the right to stay and continue her work. She is reportedly now traveling through Iraq on a similar venture.

Those who nominated her for grand marshal said, "Raphael is a tireless fighter for social justice and the universality of human rights."

Ray Tilton



For nearly 20 years Ray Tilton has devoted himself to various community projects, serving on the committees of the Imperial Court, and dedicating his energy to advancing the interests of the leather, gay youth, lesbian, and transgender communities.

Tilton has raised money for over 50 different charities and has produced numerous events, including the Folsom Street Fair; Castro Street Fair; the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund annual dinner; LeatherWalk; and "Until There's a Cure Day" with the San Francisco Giants.

He has received commendations from the city offices of the mayor and Board of Supervisors, as well as the state Assembly and U.S. Senate. He has also held the title of Mr. San Francisco Leather 1990 and Northern California Mr. Drummer 1998.

On his grand marshal nomination, Tilton said, "My community service has never been about recognition, and I'm incredibly honored."

Robert Williams



Lifelong Bay Area resident Robert Williams has always worked in community-based organizations, and is currently deputy director of the Oakland-based Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County, where he manages the organization's programs and staff.

Williams has been with SMAAC since its beginning, first as a board member during its conception, and then in his current position, which he has held for about five years. He has helped to oversee the organization's growth, which now serves about 1,300 youth per year.

Prior to working at SMAAC, he was with the African American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI), where he was an early advocate for black gay community outreach and referral programs.

Williams describes himself as a dedicated family member and foster father, and said that "serving my community in the capacity that I do is my way of giving back to all the people who have ever contributed to my life."

On his grand marshal nomination, Williams said, "I'm elated that it has gone this far."

Evan Wolfson



Say what you will about San Francisco's bold decision to offer same-sex marriage licenses; prominent civil rights attorney Evan Wolfson is firmly behind it, dismissing the notion that it has made LGBT rights a wedge issue in the upcoming elections.

Regardless of whether they are upheld in court, said Wolfson, the

Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco Endorsements, March 2, 2004 Election

U.S. Congress*:

District 8: Jennifer DePalma
District 12: Christopher Huskins

State Senate:

District 3: Andrew Felder
District 13: Shane Patrick Connolly

SF Republican County Central Committee 13th Assembly District:

Jim Soderborg
Darcy Linn
Joshua Kriesel
Dana Walsh
Christopher L. Bowman
Carolyn Devine
Mike DeNunzio
Leslie A. Huang
Giana Miniace

Log Cabin Republicans have been a voice of reason within the Republican Party and the LGBT Community for 27 Years.

Please vote for our LGBT brothers Shane Patrick Connolly, Colin Gallagher, Mark Patrosso, Fred Jankowiak, and Christopher L. Bowman and our non-Gay friends running for public office and for Republican Party leadership position.

Also, be sure to vote Yes on 57 & 58, Governor Schwarzenegger's Economic Recovery Package, and Yes on J, Gavin Newsom's Workforce Housing Initiative.

State Assembly:

District 12: Howard Epstein
District 13: Colin V. Gallagher
District 19: Catherine Brinkman
District 23: Mark Patrosso
District 24: Fred Jankowiak

State Propositions:

NO on 55: We can't afford it this year!
NO on 56: Keep the lid on new taxes!
YES on 57: Let's prevent a fiscal meltdown!
YES on 58: Slow the growth of government!

NO on RM2: No more Bridge Toll Hikes

San Francisco Propositions:

NO on C: Don't reduce Police Staffing!
YES on D: Support D.P. Retirement Benefits!
NO on E: Don't let 9/11 happen in S.F.!
YES on G: Support our Troops in Iraq!
NO on H: No more unaffordable "set-asides"!
NO on I: Don't Derail MUNI's progress!
YES on J: Build more workforce housing!

Log Cabin made "no recommendation" on all other ballot measures.

* LCRSF has recommended to our National Board the endorsements of Jennifer DePalma and Christopher Huskins for the U.S. Congress.

For LCR-CA's Endorsements outside the Bay Area, and to learn more about Log Cabin Republicans, please go to our website at www.lcrca.com.

TRAVEL

B.A.R. travel special, part two

Palm Springs all wet

by Ed Walsh

My recent trip to Palm Springs was not the picture of the city that the tourist board promotes. The desert city boasts 360 days of sunshine a year with about five inches of rain. The city made a major dent in its annual rainfall quota during my visit. The day after my first day in Palm Springs, the newspapers headlined that the city got its biggest one-day rainfall in six years, with a little over an inch of rain in 24 hours.

But in the desert rain I found a great opportunity to explore many of the city's indoor treasures that often go unnoticed by sun seekers.

For starters, I took the Celebrity Tours bus ride around some of the most striking architecture of the city including the homes of the Hollywood celebrities who first put the city on the map as an oasis getaway. Highlights of the tour include the Elvis Presley house and the homes of Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope.

The bus dropped me off at the Palm Springs Desert Museum downtown. The museum features natural science and art exhibits. It includes a wonderful collection of modern art. It's a great place to explore and a great getaway from the desert heat and the rare rain.

Around the corner from the desert museum, my first mission



An exhibit at the Palm Springs Desert Museum.

along the rain-soaked Palm Canyon Drive was to find a store that sold umbrellas. It wasn't easy, but I finally found one and had an enjoyable walking tour of the city's main drag.

As an excuse to dry out, I stumbled into the Welwood Murray Memorial Library on 100 South Palm Canyon Drive, just a block from Arenas Road, the city's gay center. The private volunteer-staffed library is free and open to the public. It doubles as a museum with exhibits that showcase the region's cultural history from its Native American past to the present. A side room pays tribute to the entertainment industry and Palm Springs' history of attracting some of the biggest names in the business.

Other must-see indoor attractions include the Follies show, af-

fectionately known by locals as the show with "old ladies dancing." It's an old-fashioned vaudeville show with dancing girls and guys, comics, and even an animal act. The dancers range in age from 57 to 86. The show features music from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. The highlight of the show is Riff Markowitz, the show's founder and managing director, who also doubles as its comic emcee. He pokes fun at the show, telling some of the best older-people jokes you'll hear anywhere and he even sneaks in some gay ones: "No, I'm all in favor of gay marriage," he announced to the audience, "at least two people will be excited about making wedding plans."

If you like to gamble or even if you don't, the newly opened down-

next page ►

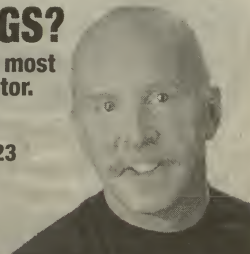
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Warm Sands: Gay hot spot

by Ed Walsh

If Warm Sands had its own mayor it would be Bob Mellen. Mellen—along with his partner, Robert Fields—is the owner of the four-in-one resort: the Vista Grande, Atrium, Mirage, and Avalon. It's one of 11 resort complexes in the neighborhood along Warm Sands Drive, about a half mile east of downtown Palm Springs.

Twenty years ago, Mellen, then a Los Angeles aerospace engineer, bought the Vista Grande resort. At the time it was a rundown straight hotel. He purchased it with a former partner who has since died. They intended it to be strictly a weekend place for guests who wanted a quick getaway from the city rat race. But Mellen found that the weekends weren't enough for some people.

"People wouldn't leave," he explained.

Back in 1984, there was only one other gay resort in the area, the El Marisol, a small bungalow-style hotel at the entrance to Warm Sands Drive. The popularity of both resorts fed on each other. Mellen found that he would often have overflow crowds that he had to refer to the surrounding straight resorts. Far from being resentful, those resorts welcomed the gay business. Eventually Mellen bought three more resorts in the area and along the way, others bought the remaining hotels and converted them to gay resorts.

Although there are 11 resort complexes, there are 17 distinctive resorts. Another hotel, the All

Worlds Resort, owned by the All Worlds gay porn company, is also a combination of four interconnected resorts.

Warm Sands' popularity has meant a five-fold increase in property values in the past 20 years. Mellen paid \$140,000, or \$20,000 per room, when he first bought Vista Grande in 1984. Now he says that resort hotels in the area are worth at least \$100,000 per unit.

The resort owner explained that he's helped many of the other gay hotels in the area get started and that has been good for his business. He estimates his occupancy at about 94 percent.

Mellen's resort and the All World's complex follow a similar business model. One of the four resorts in each of the complexes is more reserved for those who prefer a less sexually charged and quieter atmosphere. Mellen's Atrium Hotel is across the street from the main resort and he noted that it is a favorite among closeted Hollywood celebrities who don't want to be seen in a more public gay resort. All World's resort has the Another World Hotel that serves a similar purpose. It features several five-star luxury rooms includ-

ing the \$225/night Liberace Suite complete with a player piano.

All Worlds currently offers one of the best bargains in Palm Springs. Even if you choose to stay at another resort, All Worlds will give you a free day pass to use their facilities from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. An All Worlds manager explained that his resort once charged for day passes but the other resorts complained about the traffic and overflow parking. The city ordered the resort to stop because it was illegal for it to make money selling passes. The resort got around the city by letting people use the facility for free and to presumably make it more lively for paying guests.

The Hacienda at Warm Sands is at the other end of the sexual temperature scale from many of its more cruisey neighbors. It's considered one of the most upscale of all gay resorts and is popular with couples. The oldest gay resort in the neighborhood, El Marisol, is also popular with couples and has a rich history. It was built by Howard Hughes in 1947 as a getaway for his Hollywood pals. Originally it had 10 bungalows, now it has 15 units. ▼

Palm Springs

◀ previous page

town Spa Resort Casino is worth checking out. Its posh Las Vegas-style casino is attached to one of the largest full-service hotels in the city. It's operated by the Agua Caliente Band of the Cahuilla Indians.

The Palm Springs Air Museum, just outside the airport, is a must stop for anyone interested in aviation. The historical exhibits include a replica of the Wright Brothers plane on up to restored working fighter jets that were used in WWII. One of the larger planes on display was used in the *Pearl Harbor* movie.

One of Palm Springs most popular tourist draws is also one that's perfect in any weather: the Aerial Tramway. The world's largest rotating tram ascends the sheer cliffs of the Chino Canyon to the peak of Mount San Jacinto. In just a 10-minute ride, it rises 6,000 feet to the mountain docking station. The three-story station building features a cafeteria-style café, an upscale restaurant

with spectacular views, a natural history museum, and a mini-theater with continually running films that give a great history of the tram and the park surrounding it. Snow covers the peak in the winter and during the summer the temperature is easily 40 degrees lower than the sweltering valley floor. The park surrounding the mountain station includes a number of walking trails and picnic tables. If you like the outdoors, you could easily make a day of it. Tickets are \$20.80, or \$17.80 after 3 p.m. The last car up is 8 p.m. The last car down is 9:45 p.m. ▼

Gay dates

March 26-28: Dinah Shore weekend

April 8-12: White Party

November 6-7: Pride festival and parade

For a free gay visitors' guide, call the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism at 1-888-866-2744 or visit their Web site www.palm-springs.org.

Past Out

◀ page 12

sponded for nearly 40 years, until the latter's death, even in their personal letters (published in 2001) Hughes did not overtly discuss his sexual orientation or speak of romantic relationships. Yet several of Hughes's poems—such as "Young Sailor" and "Waterfront Streets"—can be read as homoerotic, and "Cafe: 3 A.M." describes an early morning scene in a gay club: "Detectives from the vice squad/with weary sadistic eyes/spotting fairies."

African American studies professor Emily Bernard notes that "there has been a consistent attempt to ignore or at least downplay [Hughes's] homosexuality ... his icon status among the African American community is contingent on his heterosexuality." But black gay men have been equally eager to embrace Hughes as one of their own. A 1988 film by Isaac Julien, *Looking for Langston*, explored what has often been left out

of official histories. Sadly, Hughes's estate did not allow his poetry to be used in the film. Nevertheless, said black gay poet Essex Hemphill, "the silence surrounding black gay and lesbian lives is being meticulously dismantled. Every closet is coming down ... those closets are ancestral burial sites that we rightfully claim and exhume." ▼

Suggested reading

Berry, Faith. 1983, 1992. *Langston Hughes, Before and Beyond Harlem* (Citadel).

Garber, Eric. 1989. "A Spectacle in Color: the Lesbian and Gay Subculture of Jazz Age Harlem." In *Hidden From History* (New American Library).

Rampersad, Arnold. 1986, 1988. *The Life of Langston Hughes, Vol. I: I, Too, Sing America; Vol. II: I Dream the World*. (Oxford University Press).

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Andrew Nance and Jim Maloney

Andrew Nance and Jim Maloney met on December 22, 1989 across a crowded room at Cafe Flore in San Francisco. After a year in the city, work took the couple to Tampa, Florida, where they fought for gay rights and founded Frontrunners Tampa Bay, a LGBT running club with over 200 members. Four years and a few cats later, the couple returned to their favorite city by a bay. Mr. Maloney went back to school and is a public policy candidate at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. Mr. Nance works at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, running its theatre school for young people.

On Thursday, February 12, they went to a rally at City Hall to legalize gay marriage. They came in the back door of the building to save time and then decided to head out front to see if there was a rally, but were headed off in the Rotunda by their friends Marcio Castro and Leonardo Montenegro, who had planned to protest with them. They said that nothing was going on out front so the foursome went directly to the county clerk's office and sat and waited with a few other couples for the rally to begin. They anticipated the picketing masses arrival and then they all would storm the place, demanding equal rights for all. They really didn't know what to expect.

After a while, a nice woman named Minna Tao came up to the small group and said, "Are you ready to get married today?" What? They thought they were

going to be told to leave the building, come back next week, etc. But lo and behold they got in a line, and they were the seventh couple to be wed! What a glorious and historic day that was.

They wish to extend their gratitude to the city and state officials who exhibited such bravery, compassion and love. Notably Mayor Gavin Newsom, City Assessor Mabel Teng (and her entire staff), Assemblyman Mark Leno, Supervisor Bevan Duffy, and former Supervisor Leslie Katz for officiating.

You can find the couple's wedding album by clicking onto:
http://photos.yahoo.com/j_a_maloney.



Leslie Adams and Anne Ludwig

Leslie Adams and Anne Ludwig were the last couple to be married on Saturday, February 14. Their friend, Joyce, and her daughter, Abbey, were the witnesses, and Supervisor Bevan Duffy married the couple in the Board of Supervisor Chambers. It was particularly special because Duffy is a friend and a member of the couple's running club, the San Francisco Frontrunners.

Ms. Ludwig and Ms. Adams have been together for nine years this May. The women met while playing against each other in a Gay Softball League game. They have both been board members on Team San Francisco for the last two Gay Games, and Ms. Adams served for several years as the Team SF delegate to the Federation of Gay Games.

The couple is looking forward to a long and happy life together.



Vina Daniels and Tracy Weir

Vina Daniels and Tracy Weir were married on Thursday, February 12 at City Hall. Ms. Daniels is the artist/owner of Paw Printers and Ms. Weir builds custom furniture. They live with their three cats in Lafayette. Ms. Weir proposed on their fifth anniversary in July 2003. They had planned to marry in July 2004 in Canada, Massachusetts, or Vermont but were thrilled to be able to get married in their own home state. They want to express their deepest gratitude to Mayor Newsom, Mabel Teng, and the staff and volunteers at City Hall for their courage, generosity, hard work, and the respect they showed for the couple's relationship.



Troy McFadin and Bob Brunson

Troy McFadin and his partner Bob Brunson, manager of Daddy's bar, were married on Monday, February 16 in the private home of Entertainment Commissioner Audrey Joseph. The private ceremony was officiated by longtime friend Assemblyman Mark Leno and attended by close friends. First lady of Assembly District 13, Donna Sachet, closed the ceremony by signing the beautiful song, "We Can Be Kind." Mr. Brunson and Mr. McFadin highly commend Mayor Gavin Newsom for his bold stand to support the Constitution, and Assemblyman Leno for performing the ceremony.



Richard Dominiak and Michael Benning

Richard Robert Dominiak and Michael Louis Benning were married on Wednesday, February 18 at San Francisco City Hall. Their vows, the culmination of nearly 15 years of togetherness, were witnessed by their dear friends Sandra Mix and Carolyn Oliss.

Mr. Dominiak is the son of Robert and Dorothy Dominiak of Bolingbrook, Illinois. Mr. Benning is the son of Corinne and Louis Benning of Chicago, Illinois (both deceased).

The couple met through mutual friends in their hometown of Chicago in 1989 and moved together to San Francisco

in 1997, where they now reside. The newlyweds wish to thank their loving family and friends for the unconditional support that has made this special day possible. They also wish to thank Mayor Gavin Newsom, Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng, and all other City Hall staff and volunteers who enabled the couple to enjoy this special day within their lifetimes.



William Swenor and Marvin Burrows

On Sunday, February 15, William Swenor and Marvin Burrows and about 500 other same-sex couples were joined in marriage in San Francisco City Hall.

The couple from Hayward were poised to celebrate their 50th anniversary as partners in life.

Mr. Swenor and Mr. Burrows met in Michigan as teenagers and moved to the Bay Area in 1966. They both are active in the Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality, the LGBT Light-house Community Center in Hayward, the East Bay Network, the Hayward Demos Democratic Club, and other gay and political organizations.

When interviewed on how they felt about the same-sex ceremony the response was, "We were able to do something personal and political in one act, we don't know if it will stand up in court. But it was worth it, even if it's for a day or so."



Timothy Ryan and Michael Medema

Timothy Paul Ryan and Michael John Medema were married at San Francisco City Hall on February 14. They joined hundreds of couples expressing their love and opening the doors for everyone in the country to get married. The couple met on December 13, 2002, and have been madly in love ever since. They reside in the Castro with their dog Cody and cats Bob and Kimmy.

Mr. Medema is an assessment and placement officer with the Treatment Access Program in San Francisco providing substance abuse and mental health referrals to clients. Mr. Medema has worked in the substance abuse field for a little over five years and enjoys feeling like he is making a difference in people's lives and the community.

Mr. Ryan is a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (Sister Lolita Me Into Temptation) and does great works within the community. Sister Lola is committed to safe sex education within the community and spreading joy and laughter to all. Sister Lola is proud to be part of such a great organization.

Mr. Medema and Mr. Ryan wish to thank those that have gone before them and made this marriage a reality. Love is the answer.

Zee Wong and Brenda Jones

With great excitement and euphoria, Zee Wong and Brenda Jones would like to share with the world that they were married on Sunday, February 15 in San Francisco City Hall. The couple met 20 years ago and have been in a loving and committed relationship for more than 10 years. They reside in Oakland and have plans to retire to Palm Springs.

Ms. Wong has worked for the California Public Utilities Commission since 1985 and is currently the chief of the safety and reliability branch. Ms. Jones is an entrepreneur specializing in caregiving.

Ms. Jones's immediate family includes mother, Ossie; siblings (spouse): Joe Jr., Beverly, Rickey (Amy), Carlos, Barbara J. (Renae). Nieces and nephews: Ebony, Brandon, Greg, Brandi, Raven, Sade, Kim, and Ryan. Great niece: Ivori.

Ms. Wong's immediate family includes mother, Sandra; siblings (spouse): George, Marilyn (Jerry), Evelyn (Manion), Lou (Peter), Jackie (Michel), Reatha (Imani). Nieces and nephews: Byron, Eric, Melissa, Alex, Emilie, and Remi.

The couple appreciates that their families have given them unconditional love and support throughout their relationship.



Christine Allen and Phoebe Ann Brown

Phoebe Ann Brown and Christine Rose Allen were legally wed in the Rotunda of San Francisco's City Hall on Monday, February 16. The couple are registered domestic partners. Former longtime residents of Alameda, California they now live in Grass Valley, California. Ms. Brown is a state employee with the Department of Aging in Sacramento. Ms. Allen is one of the co-founders of Out on the Island, and a former public school employee who is now at home writing.

Their legal marriage entailed a wait of 21 hours, overnight in the rain, outside of City Hall. The brides were trembling, flushed with excitement and cold. The marriage was attended and photographed by two of their daughters, their foster daughter, and one of their grandchildren. The official witnesses were Asia Gard and Christina Blackwell.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Allen are the mothers of Shoshanna Denise Gard, 35, of Nevada City, CA; Asia Noelle Gard of Alameda and Berkeley, CA; Jonah Blue Hall, 30, of Napa, CA; Taybn Christopher Allen, 24, of Alameda, CA; and Kalie Marie "Blaize" Sanjivan of Grass Valley, CA. They are the mothers-in-law of Stephanie Ann Hobbs Hall, 31, of Napa, CA and Maha Saleh Al-Jumaie Allen, 25, of Alameda, CA. Ms. Brown is "Nana" and Ms. Allen is "Grandma" to Jacob Anthony Hall, 12, of Napa, CA and to Reema Jumaie Allen, 7, of Alameda, CA. A third grandchild is enthusiastically expected by the family in July.



Douglas McLaughlin and Michael Lowden

On Friday, February 13, at about 5 p.m., Douglas McLaughlin and Michael Lowden were married in San Francisco City Hall. After reading about the weddings in the paper on the way to work Friday they both knew they had to take this chance to be legally married. After rushing to work to make sure they could leave work early, both of their boss's said, "Go, get married!" The couple rushed to City Hall at 2:30 p.m. to get hitched! Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Lowden have been together 13 very happy years, and February 13, 2004 was one of the happiest days of their lives. The couple wishes to thank Mayor Newsom and all the wonderful people who have wished them well.

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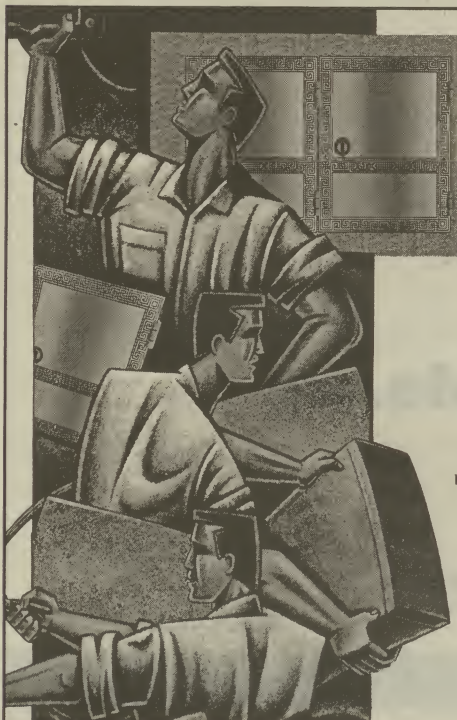
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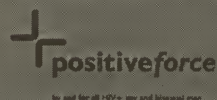
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Marriage case

◀ page 1

from issuing additional marriage licenses, Lambda Legal senior counsel Jon Davidson said, "The state's attorney general should understand better than anyone that local officials must abide by the state Constitution. First and foremost, the law governing this state is the California Constitution, and denying same-sex couples equal access to marriage violates that law. The city of San Francisco is trying to defend people's constitutional rights; that's a duty the attorney general shares, and we're disappointed that he seems unwilling to fulfill it."

Lockyer's move came three days after a second judge refused to stop the gay marriages from taking place and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger implored Lockyer to "take immediate steps" to have a court rule against the city.

On Monday, Newsom invited both President Bush, who voiced support for a federal marriage amendment Tuesday, and Schwarzenegger to come to City Hall and witness the gay marriages first hand. He also criticized the governor for saying in a nationally televised interview on Sunday that the same-sex nuptials were leading to pandemonium in the streets.

"There are no riots to my knowledge," Newsom said, who added he has not spoken directly to the governor. "I have an open door policy. For anyone who disagrees with me I invite them to come out to City Hall and spend some time here."

Openly gay state Assembly-

man Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), appearing with the mayor at a press conference to voice support for Propositions 57 and 58, two statewide budget measures backed by the governor, said Schwarzenegger owes the gay community and the city an apology for his remarks.

"It is very insulting to San Franciscans. I am getting phone calls from people asking why we should support his measures if he doesn't support our city," said Leno. "He said on national television there are riots in the streets of San Francisco. It upset voters. I am suggesting out of concern for Propositions 57 and 58 he apologize."

Two same-sex couples also filed suit Monday against Los Angeles County claiming their constitutional rights had been violated after they were denied marriage licenses on February 12. After applying for the licenses at the Beverly Hills Courthouse, the couples said the county clerk's office refused to accept their applications and handed them a form saying that under state law marriage is between "a man and a woman."

The plaintiffs in the case are Robin Tyler, a lesbian rights activist, and her partner, Diane Olson, granddaughter of former California Democratic Governor Culbert Levy Olson, and the Reverend Troy Perry and his partner, Phillip De Bleeck.

Perry and De Bleeck, who have been in a relationship for more than 18 years, told the *Los Angeles Times* that although they were legally married in Canada last year, they want the same rights and responsibilities granted married people in the United States.

"In most ways, Phillip and I are like any other couple in this state," said Perry, who more than 35 years ago founded the Metropolitan Community Churches, a fellowship that ministers to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people. "We work our jobs. We pay our taxes. We contribute to our community. Yet, the current laws of the state of California treat my same-sex partner and me as second-class citizens."

SF court action

An appeals court last Wednesday refused to take up one case brought by an antigay group that failed to obtain an immediate stay against the city in Superior Court. The judge in the case, James Warren, did order a nonbinding cease and desist order against the city last Tuesday, February 17.

Ignoring the order, city officials continued to marry same-sex couples and are preparing to defend their position in court on March 29. Last Thursday the city also filed with the state Supreme Court its own lawsuit against the state in an effort to prove that prohibitions against same-sex couples from marrying are unconstitutional.

"The city and county is going on the offensive today in protecting the mayor's decision last week to allow same-sex marriages," City Attorney Dennis Herrera announced at a press conference February 19. "We are filing suit against the state of California as well as the two petitioners to ensure the constitutionality of same-sex marriages in California gets addressed. Denying gays and lesbians marriage rights violates the equal protection clause and due process clause of the state

Constitution."

Last Friday, Superior Court Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay refused to grant the antigay group Campaign for California Families an injunction that would have halted the weddings. The judge said the group had failed to prove the gay weddings were causing irreparable harm to anyone. He did grant a request to join the two cases together and allowed a group of same-sex couples to intervene.

The city had requested for the matter to be heard before Warren but lawyers for CCF filed a pre-emptory challenge Monday, February 23, automatically removing Warren from presiding over the case. CCF attorneys said they felt the judge would be "prejudiced" against their suit. Instead, the group said it preferred Quidachay hearing the case because Warren will be on vacation for most of March.

Having Warren hear the case would "delay and elongate this process," said Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of the Liberty Counsel. "For those who are in support of marriage being between one man and one woman justice doesn't happen quickly, but justice will eventually prevail in this case."

Staver would not explain further his reasons for wanting Warren off the case, but speculation has fallen on a 2002 *San Francisco* magazine article that reported the judge is gay. Warren has refused to talk publicly about the article.

City attorney spokesman Matt Dorsey would not comment when asked if the judge's sexual orientation had played into the decision to remove him from the case. Dorsey said the city wanted to go with Warren because he had already ruled in the matter and spent time preparing for the case.

"Our choice in choosing Warren was solely to expedite the two cases into a single case whose issues had already been fully briefed at that point before Judge Warren," said Dorsey. "We have enormous respect for the entire Superior Court judiciary in San Francisco. We don't have any preference over one judge or the other."

Gay GOPers respond

In light of the dueling lawsuits and numerous court maneuvers, Log Cabin Republicans of California state chair Jeff Bissiri on Tuesday, February 24 urged for all sides in the matter to take a step back from the escalating series of legal challenges.

"Log Cabin Republicans fully support civil marriage equality for gays and lesbians. But the on-

going events in San Francisco play right into the hands of the fear-mongers who oppose those rights," said Bissiri. "We appreciate that tax-paying, loving couples went to City Hall in an effort to be treated equally under the law and accept the benefits and responsibilities of a recognized civil marriage. Log Cabin does not want their joy overshadowed by an extreme backlash that could not only nullify those marriages but deny civil marriage to gay and lesbian citizens for a generation."

Bissiri noted that to amend the California Constitution all that is needed is an amendment to be enacted through the direct petition process followed by a vote at the next statewide election.

"The incremental approach which has brought us so far so quickly could be dashed to pieces by a single measure that could be passed as part of a backlash to recent events," Bissiri added.

The gay Republican group noted that Schwarzenegger called for restraint and swift action by the courts to resolve the matter. Bissiri said he considers the governor a friend of the gay and lesbian community.

"His statement on Wednesday reiterated his full support for gay and lesbian equality and for the comprehensive domestic partner laws currently on the books," Bissiri stated. "We recognize that as a constitutional officer, he is sworn to uphold all of the laws of the state until a court determines any such law to be unconstitutional."

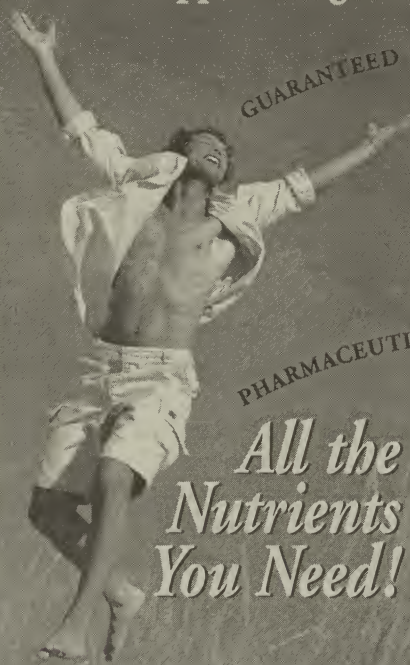
Bissiri argued that while Newsom may be well intentioned, he is not helping the cause of gay rights by creating an atmosphere where laws are simply ignored.

"What would be his reaction if the opponents of gay rights in another city refused to recognize our domestic partner laws or if the Legislature of Massachusetts ignored the ruling of their Supreme Judicial Court?" asked Bissiri. "I believe that the movement for full gay and lesbian equality under the law has progressed sufficiently to warrant our working within the system rather than against it to effect lasting change. Log Cabin is heartened by the mayor's indication that the city of San Francisco will abide by the ultimate determination of the courts."

Speaking Tuesday, Newsom defended his actions, saying San Francisco is a symbol to the world.

"The process out here works. We are in the courts," he said. "There are no riots, there are no problems. People are coming together to express their love, their commitment." ▼

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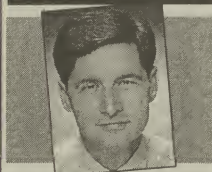
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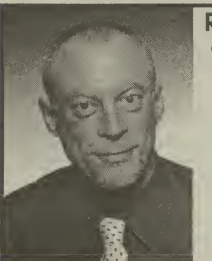
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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Donald Hurst



Don's wife, Mary, his son, Mark, and his long-time partner, Tan, were at his bedside during his final hours. He passed into the next life in the early morning of February 14.

Typical of Don, he did not depart this earth on Friday the 13th, but waited overnight until Valentine's Day!

Don was a generous volunteer who helped hundreds of people. He served at Project Open Hand's Food Bank and, for over thirteen years, at Coming Home Hospice. He was an alcoholic in recovery and, after recovering himself, helped many men and women to achieve sobriety.

Don was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 23, 6 p.m., at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St., near Market St.

Daniel Thomas Franczak
1954 — 2004

Our beautiful friend left this world at 9 a.m. on February 20, 2004 at Davies Hospital surrounded by love. At his side were his mother and closest friends to wish him a safe journey. Daniel was born on January 19, 1954 in Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-

vania, where he attended the Ivy School of Professional Art and worked as a chef. He lived in Washington, D.C. in the eighties, and cooked at fine restaurants including the Belmont Kitchen. In 1991, he moved to San Francisco and proudly called this city his home.

A self-described "handful," Daniel took particular delight in creating an atmosphere of beauty and intimacy wherever he lived. Whether it was through one of his satisfying meals, transporting messages or breathtaking gardens, his unique personality lit up the lives of all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his father, Edmund Franczak, and by close friends in Pittsburgh, Washington and San Francisco, including Bobby Connolly, Kirk Kimmel, and Eric Sorensen. He is survived by his mother, Jeanne Franczak, his siblings and their families: Susan of St. Louis, Missouri; Linda, Mary Jo, Nancy, Bob and Michael, all of Pittsburgh; and a number of nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his heartbroken circle of friends who will live the rest of their lives telling "Dan stories."

Daniel was known for his Easter hat parties, and this year will be no exception. A memorial garden party in his honor will be held on Sunday, April 11th, from 11:00-3:00 at his home. Cake and hats.

Robert "Bobby" Vierra
Feb. 13, 1946 — Dec. 22, 2003

My dear friend of over 38 years passed peacefully in Palm Springs after a long battle with cancer. His favorite expression, "Who died and made me Earth Mother?" was so appropriate as he was a natural

leader, mover and shaker. His love of interior decorating was well known and managed to turn many homes into palaces with his usual flair. At an early age, after seeing *Cleopatra*, he developed an interest in Egypt and had a vast collection of Egyptian artifacts. His wit and unselfishness, always putting everyone before himself, will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

A friend to both the Imperial and Ducal Courts, he was always ready to help with anything, preferring to do the jobs nobody wanted to do. It's going to take a lot of "Earth Mothers" to ever replace you.

A celebration of his life was given in Palm Springs on December 26th. He is survived by his Aunt Ty, sisters Bonnie, Margie and Pam. Thank you, James and Bruce, for making his last months bearable.

Knowing you has had such an impact on me, I feel truly blessed to have had you in my life.

— David Potenti, aka Grand Duchess 18 Davida Ashton.

Jack Hambly



John E. Hambly III, aka "Jack" Hambly, long-time resident of Nob Hill, passed on Friday, February 13, 2004, after a long battle with cancer. Jack was proud to be a third generation San Franciscan

— president of his senior class at Lowell High, and later a graduate of Heald Business School. He then went on to retire as the accounting supervisor for Southern Pacific Railroad.

Jack's exciting life included travel to South America, Greece, London, Paris, The Concorde, the QE II, walking on the glaciers in Alaska, fine dining, membership in the Art Deco Society of SF, Nob Hill Neighborhood Association, Native Sons of the Golden West, the GGBA, Friends of the Academy, The Commonwealth Club, Dolores Park Neighbors, and many other charitable groups.

Jack left so many friends — too many to mention here.

A celebration of the life of Jack Hambly (all 39 years) will be held on Sunday, March 21 at the Blue Muse, 409 Gough St. His favorite charities were the Horizon Foundation and the AIDS Emergency Fund.

Kenneth W. Wilson

October 27, 1949 — February 16, 2004



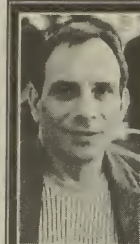
After a tough 7-year battle with cancer, Kenny died in his sleep, early on President's Day.

Born & raised in Springfield, Missouri, his residence in the Bay Area dates back to the Summer of Love.

Kenny went through more than a few jobs in retail (All American Boy, The Muscle System, Whole Foods), but would have preferred a life spent weaving rugs or tending garden.

A private person, he was a very human mixture of softness & shell, of independence & faithfulness, of limited resources & flawless taste. He will be missed by a widely scattered group of friends, from Southern California to Missouri & Virginia to Leongatha, Australia; two brothers: Ronald of Florida & Robert in Springfield; & their families; his loving companion for the last dozen years, Les, & his dear friend through it all, Charlotte.

For further information, please contact Les Bonus as les4@comcast.net



JIM STEVENS
2-11-51 to 2-24-03

Jim, it's been a year since we've heard your voice and we so miss your Sunday phone calls. You have so many wonderful, thoughtful friends and co-workers and you really DID make a difference in all of our lives. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Our most heartfelt appreciation to Leon for all he's done for us. Special thanks also to Tom and Dave and Marie.

Love, Mom and Barb

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Bush

◀ page 1

have serious consequences throughout the country.

"Marriage cannot be severed from its cultural, religious, and natural roots without weakening the good influence of society," Bush asserted. "The voice of the people must be heard."

The president did not specifically endorse the Federal Marriage Amendment authored by Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado) that already has been introduced in both houses of Congress, or any specific language for the amendment.

Social conservatives who had been prophesying Bush's endorsement of the amendment for weeks were ecstatic. But many traditional conservatives have expressed their disdain for tinkering with the Constitution for social purposes.

The leading Democratic presidential candidates – Senators John Kerry (Massachusetts) and John Edwards (North Carolina) – have expressed their opposition to such an amendment.

Many observers believe the amendment may be able to muster the two-thirds vote in the House that is required for passage, but prospects seem much more difficult in the Senate. Should it pass those hurdles, an amendment must be ratified by 38 states before

it can take effect.

Gays outraged

Gays and their supporters were outraged by Bush's announcement.

"Log Cabin considers support for this amendment a declaration of war on gay and lesbian families and an attack on our sacred Constitution," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. They are "more determined than ever to fight the anti-family constitutional amendment with all of our resources."

Log Cabin's executive board decides endorsements for the organization. It declined to endorse re-election of the first President Bush and history may well repeat itself. Spokesman Mark Mead said he was not a single-issue voter but this made it "difficult" for him to vote for Bush. Part of his decision might depend on the other options on the ballot.

"To use the Constitution to discriminate against our families is un-American, shameful, and divisive," said Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "Americans remember the president's promise to be a uniter, not a divider. Today the president has broken that promise."

"Sugar coating his discriminatory stand by calling for dialogue turns accepted notions of debate on their head," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry. "The pretense of encour-

aging a national conversation about civil rights – while at the very same time taking action to shoot down the discussion with a constitutional amendment – is simply unprecedented."

"This is a despicable new low ... nothing more than a transparent election year ploy to use our lives and families as a wedge issue into the electorate and divert attention away from the critical issues that face our country," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"President Bush fails to understand that our families are more than political red meat that he can throw before his antigay base," said Dave Noble, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats. "He has clearly demonstrated that it is no longer acceptable for our community to merely vote against this man. Each one of us now has the responsibility to actively work to deny him a second term."

"Yesterday President Bush began his campaign, today his first step is to try and divide Americans," was the reaction of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. "It is the president's sworn oath to uphold the Constitution and protect the civil rights of all Americans; it is sad day when he turns on his own citizens in order to seek re-election."

House Minority Leader Nancy

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Pacific pics

by Jim Provenzano

While other entries have decidedly queer content, some sports-themed films in the 22nd San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival deserve mention for their original themes and captivating footage.

The Ride

When white, or "haole" (pronounced "howly"), arrogant surf champ David, portrayed effectively by Scot Davis, nearly dies in a surfing accident, he's sent back in time, where he befriends Duke Kahanamoku before the Hawaiian athlete became a surf legend.

Once the cocky surf champ develops feelings for the land and its people, he learns the true meaning of surfing from Duke, how to surf from the heart, and on ancient longboards, no less. Mary Paalani plays Lehua with a quiet conviction as she dares to fall in love with David the "haole."

Sean Kaawa's natural performance as Kahanamoku overcomes the film's simplistic script. Although a traditional romance, there's plenty of beefcake. Sean Kaawa is simply stunning as the hapless, muscular Duke.

Weldon Kekauoha as Blackie, and Johann Bouit as Caps, round out the cast with their husky charm, and a lot of Hawaiian slang. All the men do most of their own surfing, adding authenticity



Alohunk: Sean Kaawa as Duke Kahanamoku in *The Ride*.

to this cute and sweet historically fictional, but culturally respectful, film. (March 6 at 12:15 p.m. and March 7 at 9:30 p.m., both at the Kabuki Theatre.)

Daughters of Everest

This one-hour documentary by Bay Area filmmaker Sapana Sakya tells the perilous yet heartwarming story of a group of women who, for diverse personal reasons, decide to be the first female team to hike the summit of Mount Everest, the famed peak in the Nepalese Himalayas.

Over 150 people have died in attempting the climb. The only woman to successfully climb Mount Everest died on her descent. Statues in Nepal commemorate the fallen hero.

To overcome the limitations of impoverished Sherpa women, for whom becoming high altitude guides (the most lucrative of jobs) is limited to men, Mingma leads the team. "Climbing Everest to prove that women are no less than men," she says.

All participants offer insight throughout the film, with a lot less external drama than the hyped *Survivor* TV show, but with meaning that is much more profound for its participants, all native Sherpa Nepalese.

The women get equipment from sponsors proud of their efforts. But their three-week training period gets pushed ahead of schedule so that the climb coincides with Nepal's millennium celebrations.

The pressure mounts through press conferences, meetings with the king and queen of Nepal, and ceremonies with Buddhist monks and the prime minister. Yet, their team leader is remote and the group hasn't cohered.

After a few days at base camp, and visits to a cherished mountain monastery for blessings from the lama, they begin what is often a six-week journey. They make the journey in less time, but the sacrifices made on the way up show a surprising finish.

While videotaped in simple style, *Daughters of Everest* intimately documents a momentous occasion for women athletes. (March 9 at 6:45 p.m., Kabuki)

The Other Final

Montserrat and Bhutan, the two lowest ranked soccer teams, were asked by a representative from the Dutch team to play a smaller, more intimate final as the global media focused on the 2002 World Cup in Japan.

Clever segues using a globally bouncing soccer ball keep the tone

light, but one can't help but feel the touching enormity of the gesture, bringing two disparate cultures together for a dignified losers' match. A sense of humanity, and the distinct culture of each team, is beautifully shown.

Montserrat's main sport is cricket, and its ranks of soccer players remains at 150, yet their supporters keep high goals. Still recovering from the devastation of a 1997 volcanic eruption that took

place on the small island off the coast of Brazil, the

Montserrat players even have to delay soccer practices when the air carries a thin layer of remnant ash.

Bhutan, with up to 900 team players, is seen fascinated by the World Cup, and soccer, which is taught in impoverished schools.

TV sales jump before the event in the small sovereign country in the Himalayas. Even the former king was a highly ranked goalkeeper.

The affable story is complicated when both teams lose their coaches. The Montserrat team has difficulty acclimating to the mountain air, and suffers from travel sickness.

A montage of global media derisively calls it the worst FIFA soccer match, but the players keep their dignity, and make the eventual victory a bipartisan affair, particularly with the creative use of the trophy.

(March 5 at 5 p.m., Castro Theatre; March 7 at 3:20 p.m., Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; and March 10 at 1 p.m., Kabuki)

Sleeping Tigers: The Asahi Baseball Story

A historic time in the often forgotten history of World War II North America, when Japanese American citizens were locked up in camps, even includes sports as a form of vindication.

Sleeping Tigers traces the history of Vancouver immigrants, their love of baseball, and how one team made history by taking on non-Asian teams outside their community. Their success was abruptly

cut short with the outbreak of WWII, and Japanese Canadians were shipped off to hastily formed work camps in the far reaches of rural British Columbia.

To pass the time of their unjust wartime imprisonment of entire families, their homes and belongings sold or confiscated, many young men, some from the Asahi team, started playing organized baseball games.

"It had a feeling of, 'Let's show 'em,' says one interviewee. "Let's show 'em they can't keep us down.'"

Surviving players now in their 80s are interviewed. Vintage and recreated footage, plus lots of archived photographs, recalls the quietly revolutionary team, and the recent tribute the surviving members receive at a Toronto Bluejays game.

Accompanying the screening of *Sleeping Tigers* is *Day of Independence*, a short film that tells a similar story of U.S. Japanese internment camp baseball players. What's surprising is how the characters focus more on socializing and doing their best to enjoy their lives during this often ignored era in our past.

(March 7, noon, Kabuki; March 20, 2:15 p.m. in San Jose.)

For ticket and theatre info, pick up a schedule, or visit www.naatanet.org/festival.

Miracle workers

If you're looking for some sports entertainment tonight (Thursday, February 26), there's nothing more cool than the hot action at Yerba Buena Ice Rink, where the SF Quakes hockey team revs up for its league playoffs against the Utah Icehounds. One more victory, and they'll be in the finals, set for March 9.

Join the enthusiastic fans, bring a coat, and cheer on the Gay Games 2002 gold medal-winning hockey team at 9:30 p.m. at 750 Folsom Street at 4th (415) 777-3727. Free admission, but worth a lot more. Info: www.sfquakes.com.

Shock the monkey

Chicago, one of two bidding cities for Gay Games VII, just struck a few chords for gay and lesbian marriage. The Chicago Commission on Human Relations said it opposes constitutional amendments on marriage.

While Madame Bush claims our little marry-thon is "shocking to some," and her warmongering pretzel-choking chimp of a hubby is peeved, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley supports same-sex marriage, he said at a press conference February 18. Gee, maybe some of us who don't now have partners can get married and win a medal in 2006.

Android and former bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger said ... well, you already know what he said. That guy crept me out way back when he made *Pumping Iron*. Any of you who voted for him should be ashamed of yourselves.

Balls and bats

Shame on *Saturday Night Live*'s Jimmy Fallon, for spilling the beans, er, making a completely fictional joke on his show's Weekend Update sketch last week.

Commenting on the New York Yankees having acquired Alex Rodriguez, Fallon quipped, "The Yankees gave A-Rod something the other teams couldn't — [cut to picture of Derek Jeter] — a boyfriend." ▼

More darn good gay sports fun at www.sportscomplex.org.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bush

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Pelosi (D-San Francisco) said that the Constitution is "not a place for political wedge battles."

Pelosi, who late last year during a roundtable with reporters said she has a plan to fight the amendment, said she strongly opposes it. "The Constitution is about freedoms, not about limiting freedoms," Pelosi said in a statement. "Never before has a constitutional amendment been used to discriminate against a group of people, and we must not start now."

"Twelve days ago in San Francisco, [the prospect of gay marriage] stopped being an abstract discussion when ordinary lesbian and gay people began getting married," said Jon Davidson, the Lambda Legal attorney involved with the cases. "Gay married couples are no longer a bogeyman that can be used to frighten the

country, they are real people with very real needs for protections only marriage can provide."

Davidson believes the gay marriages that have taken place in "San Francisco will help defeat any antigay constitutional amendment by continuing to show the nation that married gay couples aren't a threat and that nobody else's marriage is harmed when loving, same-sex couples receive equal treatment."

"As America has watched images in the media of thousands of gay and lesbian couples who have joyfully made formal commitments to one another, they have seen something President Bush has obviously missed completely; that true equality under the law is something that every American yearns for deeply – and is entitled to," said Joan M. Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"Rather than keep the Constitution out of the culture wars, this

president wants to drag the very founding document into his re-election campaign," wrote gay conservative Andrew Sullivan on his blog. "He is proposing to remove civil rights from one group of American citizens – and do so in the Constitution itself."

"The very tactic is so shocking in its prejudice, so clear in its intent, so extreme in its implications that it leaves people of good will little leeway. This president has now made the Republican Party an emblem of exclusion and division and intolerance. Gay people will now regard it as their enemy for generations – and rightly so."

"The president has made it easy," wrote Sullivan. "He's a simple man and he divides the world into friends and foes. He has now made a whole group of Americans – and their families and friends – his enemy. We have no alternative but to defend ourselves and our families from this attack. And we will." ▼

News briefs

◀ page 2

City holds Healthy Penis 'Idol'

Looking for your 15 minutes of fame? Have a unique quality to your voice which could animate a phallic symbol?

If so, the city's Department of Public Health and social market-

ing firm Better World Advertising wants you to become the voice of the Healthy Penis.

The cartoon character, a spokesman in the fight against a five-year syphilis outbreak among gay and bi men made famous through comical print ads, will now star in a new series of television ads. To give voice to the character, the city and ad firm are hosting an *American Idol* inspired

contest to find the perfect vocal match.

Anyone who thinks their vocal chords can blow lyrical life into the healthy penis are invited to try out before a panel of judges Monday, March 1. As of press time, porn star Michael Brandon had agreed to judge the contest. The competition will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

Mark Leno

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on record that if an amendment comes to the state, it would not be in support of it. It would be a pre-emptive strike."

It appears it took President Bush's remarks Tuesday to finally put an end to any questions on the validity of introducing the resolution. And even then the language of the resolution was not finalized until late Tuesday evening, when Leno's office faxed the B.A.R. a copy.

On Monday, Leno had said yesterday's press conference would deal with the nine bills the LGBT

caucus is pushing this session. Only when pressed did he add that the anti-FMA resolution would be part of that package of bills. The original press advisory for Wednesday's announcement, sent out at noon only hours after the president's remarks, still made no mention of the resolution.

Responding to a reporter's question, an aide to Leno said late Tuesday that the press conference would no longer deal with the legislative agenda and instead focus on the resolution. A revised advisory was sent out at 7 p.m.

Asked if the uproar over San Francisco's decision to marry same-sex couples could impede passage of the resolution, Leno

said, "I have never taken anything to the floor unless I had the votes."

Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, said he hopes Leno, California's LGBT community as well as nongay people committed to equality "are prepared to carry this forward to victory. As in any action you want to do your homework and work hard to make sure it heads us forward and does not set us back."

Considering the Democrats hold a majority in the California Legislature, Dave Noble, the executive director of Stonewall Democrats, said he did not think the resolution would fail.

"Certainly I think it is a positive step," he said. ▼

Pastor

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director for the California-Nevada Conference, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that individual disciplinary proceedings are confidential and that Shamana could not comment on specific details of the case.

The church's disciplinary process begins with a supervisory meeting between the accused and

the bishop, who then decides whether the complaint is of an administrative nature or concerns church-defined offenses. If the latter, the complaint may be forwarded to a Committee on Investigation, which can level charges that lead to a church trial. If convicted, Oliveto could lose her ministerial credentials.

Nevertheless, Oliveto stands by her actions, and at a press conference last Sunday about 100 mem-

bers of Bethany and other United Methodist congregations from around the Bay Area and as far away as Davis and San Jose were on hand to affirm their support for the minister.

"We will interpret for the church the changing cultural context in which we are living," said Oliveto. "[Same-sex marriage] may have begun in San Francisco, but will become a reality throughout the United States." ▼

Grand marshals

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marriages "gave America the opportunity to see thousands of couples – some in the rain, some with their kids, some who camped overnight – get married."

Before becoming executive director of the national organization Freedom to Marry – a coalition that includes gay and non-gay advocates for equal rights – Wolfson was an attorney at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, where he was involved in the Vermont court case that ultimately led to the civil union law.

On his grand marshal nomination, Wolfson said, "Of course it's very flattering, at a time when San Francisco is helping to lead the country to marriage equality.

"It would be wonderful to celebrate there, and to call more people to join us in the civil rights movement," said Wolfson, "but I would see it as my honoring San Francisco leadership, rather than the other way around."

Other nominees

The public has also selected five community groups as nominees for organization grand marshal. Voters may choose among the gay Latino group AGUILAS; Children of Gays and Lesbians Everywhere; the immigration equality group Love Without Borders; the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County; and Women Against Military Madness.

The Pink Brick Award – reserved for the worst of the worst homophobes – has three nominees: U.S. Representative Marilyn

Musgrave (R-Colorado), author of Federal Marriage Amendment; Pope John Paul II, for his emergence as the number one international voice against same-sex marriage; and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Public voting

Grand marshal voting begins this Saturday, February 28 and continues throughout March. On February 28, volunteers will be at 18th and Castro Streets to distribute and collect ballots. A PDF of the ballot is also available on the Pride Web site for people to download. Visit www.sfpride.org for updated details on polling locations; votes may also be mailed to the Pride office; no more than two ballots per envelope. More information on grand marshal voting is available at www.sfpride.org. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0273850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Modeligo Landscaping, 3332 Noriega Street San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Foran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273809-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ken's Towing 1340 Egbert Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124 This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kenneth J. Cisne, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273687-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: PNS.LLC, Pacific Neurophysiological Systems 769 37th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Charlotte Moore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08/23/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/18/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273773-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Under Glass Custom Framing, 268 Church Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lynn Cicchetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/05/1985. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273758-00

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FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273585-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Leo's Paratransit 649 Masonic Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Dorothy M. Sanders. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/20/1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273863-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Tial Noodle, 2546 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Bunchard Inkong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273848-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Janitorial Service M.V.M., 1112 Shotwell Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Florentino Albino. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273843-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pinko Musik, 617 York Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael T. Richards. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273833-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wilde Productions, Wilde Creative, Wilde TV, and Wilde Films, 1300 Mariposa Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael L. Wilde. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/25/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04541158

In the Matter of the Application of Steven Bruce Modarai for Change of Name. The application of Steven Bruce Modarai for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steven Bruce Modarai has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Asad'ullah Qoroshi' Modarai. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30 day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541159

In the Matter of the Application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for Change of Name. The application of Alina Vakhutinskaya for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alina Vakhutinskaya has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alina Vakulin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273153-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rainbow Art Pier 39 San Francisco CA 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Theodore Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/21/1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/27/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273285-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Precon Services Inc. 1486 31st Ave. San Francisco CA 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Mark Gorman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/15/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/02/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273248-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fillmore Eye Wear 1490 Fillmore St. San Francisco CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nae Moon Park. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/30/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273064-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Anthroarts 350 Alabama St. San Francisco CA 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sarah E. Murray. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/23/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0272704-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Beautiful Day 674 Castro St. San Francisco CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jeanine K. Reisbig. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/12/2004. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE #231919

The following persons have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as Geary Street Bella Pizzeria 4124 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business was conducted by general partnership, signed Lap Bo Chu. This statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/12/04.

FEB. 5, 12, 19, 26 2004

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

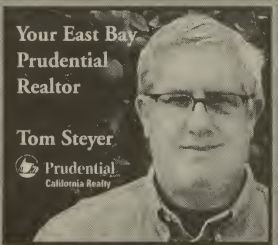
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LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services

Request for Proposals # 269
Dear Potential Applicant:
The San Francisco Department of Human Ser-
vices announces its intent to seek proposals from
agencies or organizations interested in contract-
ing to provide family resource center services to
the Chicano/Latino community throughout the
City. The center services will include a range of
family preservation and support services to
strengthen families and decrease the risk of child
abuse and neglect.

The contract period will run from 7/1/04 to
6/30/07 for an amount to be determined.
An RFP packet may be picked up at a SF DHS, Of-
fice of Contract Management, 1650 Mission
Street, Suite 300, Monday, March 1, 2004. Office
hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.
The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be
downloaded from the City's website on or after
Monday, March 1, 2004. Go to [HTTP://SUN-
SET.CS.SFCA.US/RFBS.NSF](http://HTTP://SUN-
SET.CS.SFCA.US/RFBS.NSF)
and click on the "Consultants and Professional
Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on
Wednesday, March 10, at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mis-
sion St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further informa-
tion, call Johanna Gendelman at (415) 557-
5162. Due date for responses is Wednesday,
March 31, 2004, at 4 PM.
02/26/04 • CNS-641068#
BAY AREA REPORTER

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SAN
FRANCISCO, PETER KEEGAN, AND
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legal form if you want the court to hear
your case.

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and property may be taken without further
warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You
may want to call an attorney right away. If
you do not know an attorney, you may call
an attorney referral service or legal aid of-
fice (listed in the phone book).

The name and address of the court is: Su-
perior Court of San Francisco
400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA
94102. The name, address, and telephone
number of the plaintiff's attorney or plain-
tiff without attorney is: K.J. Petsas
Law Offices of K.J. Petsas, PC
1475 Huntington Ave., Suite 205
South San Francisco, CA. 94080; (650)
624-8155.

FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE NO. CNC 04-541183

In the Matter of the Application of Joe
Nathan Homer for Change of Name. The
Application of Joe Nathan Homer for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Joe Nathan Homer has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be changed to
Joe Nathan Tobie. Now therefore, it is hereby
ordered and directed, that all persons in-
terested in said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 218 on the 13th
day of April at 9:00am of said day to show
cause why the application for change of
name should not be granted.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273214-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: S and V Liquors 1287 Howard Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by a Limited Liability Company
signed Syed Ali. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
n/a. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
01/28/04.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL AL-
COHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the
Application(s) is/are Prasad Vikashni Anita
and Ali Syed M. The applicants listed
above are applying to the Department of
Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry
Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca.
94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 1287
Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103.

Type of License applied for:
21 - OFF-SALE GENERAL

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273257-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Utilibooks 585 Page St. #2
San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Lee Rey-
more. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on n/a. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273628-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Juan's Cutting Service 576 York St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Juan
Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to trans-
act business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 02/11/04. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273608-00

The following person(s) are doing business
as: Out To Sea 1561 Treat Ave. San Fran-
cisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conduct-
ed by an individual signed Jennifer Price.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on 02/11/04. The state-
ment was filed with the City and County of
San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE NO. CNC 04-541181

In the Matter of the Application of Scott
Michael Nelson for Change of Name. The
application of Scott Michael Nelson for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Scott Michael Nelson has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Scott Michael Nelson Windels.
Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and di-
rected, that all persons interested in said
matter do appear before this Court in De-
partment 218 on the 13th day of April at
9:00am of said day to show cause why the
application for change of name should not
be granted.

FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCE

The Minimum Wage Ordinance (Prop L) approved by San Francisco voters on November 4, 2003, requires San Francisco employers (whether or not the employees receive City contracts) to pay a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour for work performed in San Francisco, beginning February 23, 2004.

The minimum wage requirement applies to adult and minor employees who work two (2) or more hours per week. Each year the City will adjust the amount of the minimum wage based on increases in the regional consumer price index. The requirement does not apply to small businesses with fewer than ten (10) employees (including temporary and part-time employees) or non-profits until January 1, 2005.

Under the ordinance, employees may assert their right to receive the City's minimum wage after protected from retaliation. Employees may file a lawsuit against their employers for any violation of the ordinance. The City can investigate possible violations and enforce the minimum wage requirements by ordering reinstatement of employees and payment of back wages and penalties.

For additional information visit the City's website at <http://www.sfgov.org/ocal/wlw.htm>. Questions can be emailed to MWOC@sfgov.org or contact the Living Wage/Living Health Division in the Office of Contract Administration at (415) 554-6743.

SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency will be accepting statements of qualifications from consulting firms for iDesign Services for Abatement and Deconstruction of Existing Buildings at Hunters Point Shipyard. The Statement of Qualifications is due no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 2004 at the Redevelopment Agency, 770 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, 3rd Floor.

The contemplated scope of work includes assessing the site; conducting a comprehensive study of all the dwellings to determine whether to move forward with a deconstruction plan, demolition plan, or combination of both methods to clear the site; and designing final plans and specification to abate contaminated materials and remove the existing buildings.

This opportunity is open to all businesses, both for-profit and non-profit. Applicants are advised that the Agency is committed to vigorous equal opportunity employment, and a maximum utilization of minority-owned and woman-owned businesses. Therefore, local Bayview Hunters Point M/WBEs and non-local firms are encouraged to submit as a prime contractor, in partnership or in a joint venture.

The RFQ is available at the 3rd floor Reception Desk, Redevelopment Agency, 770 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 and on the City's website at <http://sunset.cisfca.us/pbids.nsf>.

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273398-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Heavenly B.B.Q. 798 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas M. Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273184-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: David Barnett Design 1370 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Barnett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/28/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. CMC 04-541180
In the Matter of the Application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for Change of Name. The application of Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Abraham Fahim Abdel Hamid has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Abraham A. Fahim. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of March at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273346-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Reemore Consulting 427 18th Ave. #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry P. Arundel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273368-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucky Creation Vegetarian Restaurant L.L.C. 854 Washington St. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Hin Kwong Mak. California. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273451-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Speed Pro Towing 251 Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Raul Oropeza. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/06/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273489-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Handyman Bay Area 870 Shotwell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Emiliano Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273490-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Cleaning Gonzalez 1112 Shotwell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Oscar Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/09/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/09/04
FEB. 12, 19, 26 MAR. 4, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273546-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Explorer 323 Geary St. Suite 712 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Gordon M. Felheroff. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/10/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/04
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

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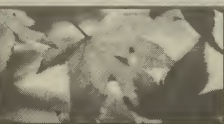
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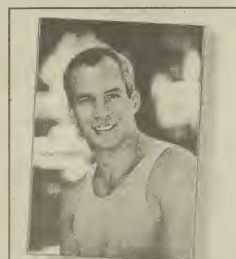
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The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is a lifeline for uninsured and underinsured Californians living with HIV and AIDS—providing medications to preserve their lives. But Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed 2004-05 budget does not include \$25 million in increased funding for ADAP to assure treatment for people with no other program to turn to. The

Governor has proposed that ADAP be permanently closed at its current level of 23,900 enrollees. This will result in approximately 1,440 people being placed on a waiting list for life-saving HIV medications every year. The ADAP shortfall could also cause many drugs currently available to ADAP enrollees to be taken away from them.

ATTEND THE RALLY TO SAVE ADAP.

Monday, March 8, 2004, 10:00 a.m.

The Senate Budget Committee will hold a hearing on ADAP at 2:30 pm. Please plan to stay until 4:00 pm to advance full funding for this program.

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Gay and gaga over movies

'Fabulous!' A loving, luscious lighthearted look at film through a rainbow prism.

page 43

Gay at Sundance

A crop of groundbreaking queer films at the fest.

page 48

Oscar-watching

A survey of books on Academy Award history.

page 38



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 9 • 26 February 2004

Theron joins the ranks

The Academy loves a complete transformation

by Matthew Kennedy

All across America, in homes that pay attention to such things, one could hear the breathless interrogative, "That's Charlize Theron?!" when the print ads for *Monster* first appeared. Before all the fuss, the model-turned-actress had logged in a number of unremarkable performances (*The Astronaut's Wife*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Reindeer Games*) and was making no big waves in Hollywood. Now she was party to an extreme, and extremely unexpected, makeover. For her performance as serial killer Aileen Wuornos, her mouth was crammed with maloccluded false teeth, her skin was latexed to effect years of sun damage, and her hair was tortured into an unruly thicket. Theron the lovely became Theron the Monster, and waltzed her way into the winner's circle of the Golden Globes, the National Society of Film Critics, and the National Board of Review. An Oscar nomination was inevitable, and she is now expected to win Best Actress at the Academy Awards this Sunday.

A few observations emerge. First, one doesn't have to actually see *Monster* to predict her victory, or to admire her accomplishment. Here she is transformed into the daughter of Satan, and takes Christina Ricci as her punk lover, yet there are no picket lines, and no outraged editorials on the sorry depiction of lesbians in pop culture. Perhaps we've come some distance since Sharon Stone and her ice-pick. Of course, Wuornos was not a screenwriter's invention, and carpers can find something like balance with *The L Word*, that oversexed, strangely derivative cable soap about designer lesbians in L.A. Wuornos' sexuality has meanwhile been met with a great big yawn.

Then there is the matter of Theron's metamorphosis. We live in an age when the Academy is easily impressed with grotesque effects. Nicole Kidman bagged Best Actress last year by forgetting she was Nicole Kidman. She, too, was a lovely actress transformed by makeup, in her case a celebrated nose that helped her deliver a performance choked with anxiety. But just how impressive was her Virginia Woolf in *The Hours*? Surrounded by exquisitely detailed sets, costumes and props, and blessed with talented co-

page 44 ►



Charlize Theron before (above) and after (left) her extreme makeover to play serial killer Aileen Wuornos in *Monster*.



Stylish men escort Donna Sachet at the Academy of Friends Gala on Oscar night.

Statuette derby Oscar party at the Castro Theatre

by Adam Sandel

The Academy Awards is the gay Super Bowl: the must-see TV event of the year that no self-respecting homosexual is likely to miss. But unlike the Super Bowl, there are more ways to experience the Oscars than just attending the event in person or watching it at home while feasting on Costco-sized bowls of hot wings.

The black-tie Oscar-night options in San Francisco include *An Evening of Stars*, a dinner party with Jan Wahl at the Ritz-Carlton (\$175), and the *Academy of Friends Gala*, the mega-gay fundraiser for HIV/AIDS at the Concourse at 8th and Brannan Streets (\$150).

But this year a new event rolls out the red carpet in San Francisco. Drag diva Donna Sachet hosts *The Academy Gala*, a benefit for the Cystic Fibrosis Foun-

dation at the Castro Theatre (\$65).

"On Oscar night, you can sit at home and watch it in your pajamas, go to a black-tie ball, or have fun at our neighborhood celebration," says Empress Sachet. "This one is more whimsical than the other parties in town, with more humor and craziness."

The six-hour party begins at 4 p.m. with Sachet greeting red-carpet guests à la Joan Rivers (to whom she bears an uncanny resemblance). Questions of "Who are you wearing?" will evolve into "What are you eating?" as guests move among appetizers, pastas, salads, desserts and margarita, vodka and wine bars over the course of the evening.

The 5 p.m. pre-show and commercial breaks will feature performances by guest emcees Connie Champagne (in a Judy Garland medley) and Trauma Flintstone. Sachet also promises a spoof of this year's heavily favored Best Picture nominee. With *Return of the*

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

The bad and the beautiful

Bounty of books about the Oscars

by Tavo Amador

Over the years, books about the Oscars have proliferated almost as quickly as the number of film awards has grown. The traditional prizes: Golden Globes, National Board of Review, New York Film Critics, have been joined by the National Society of Film Critics, the Los Angeles Film Critics, the Broadcast Film Critics, the San Francisco Film Critics, and others. But the Academy Awards are the only ones with an impact on the box

office, and they remain the most significant, enjoyable, and controversial of movie laurels.

Histories of the Academy Awards fall into two categories: lavish picture books with brief summaries of each year's outcomes, or those with minimal illustrations but lots of text. The best of the former is Robert Osborne's coffee-table-size *75 Years of the Oscar: The Official History of the Academy Awards* (Abbeville Press, \$75). Osborne, who wrote the first history of the Oscars, updates his editions frequently. This one stops at 2001. It lists all the

nominees, has a short discussion for each year, and includes great quotes from winners. It's error-free and filled with sensational photographs, but the text is too respectful — no dirt is dished, alas.

Gail Kimm and Jim Piazza's *The Academy Awards: The Complete Unofficial History* (Black Dog and Levanthal Publishers, \$34.95) has an eye-catching, glittery cover with a mock invitation to the ceremony, and includes 2002's winners. Like Osborne's tome, it lists all the nominees, but has a livelier text, although it's error-prone. The authors claim Joan Crawford had four Best Actress nominations — she had three. They attribute the following to Audrey Hepburn: "I had to be the first to win three! I was positive I would get it, and so was everyone in town," instead of Bette Davis, spoken after she lost for '62's *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* They call '86's *The Color of Money*, for which Paul Newman won Best Actor, a remake of '61's *The Hustler*. It was a sequel. In discussing Jack Palance's Best Supporting Actor win for '91's *City Slickers*, Kimm and Piazza say his film debut was '52's *Sudden Fear* — it was '50's *Panic in the Streets*. The listing of nominations for '44 omits two of the five Best Supporting Actresses.

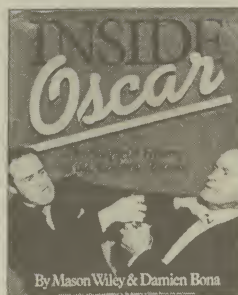
Juicy fruit

Despite limited and poor pictures, *Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards* by Mason Wiley and Damien Boca (Ballantine, \$16) is hugely entertaining and informative. It covers the expected nominations, compares them to the actual ones, and details the awards ceremony itself. It's loaded with juicy anecdotes: Gloria Swanson's reaction to losing for '50's *Sunset Boulevard*; how MGM and Paramount blocked Judy Garland's winning for '54's *A Star Is Born*; Hedda Hopper's campaign to get a posthumous Best Actor Award for James Dean in '55; the drama behind Elizabeth Taylor's first win,

for '60's *Butterfield 8*; backstage tension between Crawford and Davis during the '62 ceremony; Hepburn's graciousness despite being snubbed for '64's *My Fair Lady*; the politics of Jane Fonda's wins; whose campaigns were successful (Crawford's, Olivia de Havilland's, Gwyneth Paltrow's) and whose failed (Rosalind Russell's, John Wayne's, Richard Burton's), and many more. It, too, lists all the nominees and has a section on significant films and songs that weren't finalists. Several editions exist; the most current one, in paperback, stops at 2000.

Emmanuel Levy's *Oscar Fever* (Continuum, \$29.95) is available in two editions, the most recent published in 2002. It claims to offer "scientific" analysis of the awards, but its conclusions are so general, they are meaningless. Errors pop up with such regularity that they will keep informed readers turning the pages while shaking their heads.

On the critical fashion front, Patty Fox's *Star Style at the Academy Awards*, published in 2000 by HCP, stands out. It's worth checking used bookstores or online for a copy. Fox covers every ceremony,



ny, and her comments on the clothes — good, bad, and outrageous — are great, all backed by sensational photographs.

Finally, if comparing the Oscars to other film honors is of interest, then purchase Tom O'Neil's *Movie Awards: The Ultimate, Unofficial Guide to the Oscars, Golden Globes, Critics, Guild and Indie Honors* (Variety, \$19.95). O'Neil recounts the often hostile battles among the New York Film Critics, for example, as well as the influence of Pauline Kael and her disciples, "The Paulettes." O'Neil also shows which, if any, awards are accurate harbingers of who will take home the little man.

What makes the Oscars so enjoyable is that no one can regularly predict the winners. Neither logic nor merit consistently prevails. Let's hope that never changes. ▼

Naive New Yorker

by Jim Piechota

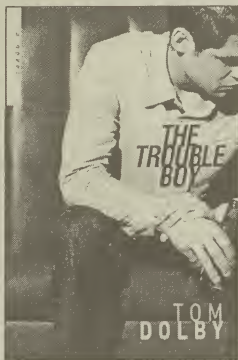
The Trouble Boy by Tom Dolby; Kensington Books, \$23

In Tom Dolby's hip yet unsurprising debut novel, young Toby Griffin, a Yale-educated, gay freelance writer, navigates his way through the shark-infested waters of gay Manhattan hoping to score both a screenplay deal and a loyal boyfriend. Quite a tall order, but bring on the drama anyway.

The son of an upper-crust clothing designer, Toby is plagued with acne, depression, and various alcohol and cocaine indulgences, but gets lucky when he's hired to be a nightclub reviewer for a struggling website and quickly becomes a "nightlife contender," impressing his new friends Jaime, Donovan, Brett, David, and Alejandro — all mean queens in their own right.

Though the New York City social scene is fueled by classic narcissism and the fine art of "hooking up," Toby does manage to eke out an awkward dinner date or two, but most of these end disastrously, including one with an egotistical *Real World* token-fag, a sleazy Polo store clerk, and an obsessive "Goth" art student.

When both the website gig and an exciting proposal from transsexual performer Lola Copacabana bottom out, Toby begins work for high-profile public-relations diva Ariana Richards, all while trying to market a ridicu-



lous screenplay idea called *Breeders*, about straight men stuck in an all-homosexual world (roll eyes here). Hotshot producer Cameron Cole employs him next as a personal assistant, and tensions mount when Jaime has an HIV scare and Toby is partially responsible. Uh-oh.

A VIP premiere party with lots of cocaine and booze sets the stage for a deadly Lizzie Grubman-style "accident" and a cover-up that tests Toby's allegiance to his glitzy cohorts. Will our almost-charming, newly infamous hero ever find someone worthy and stop whining, "I need a boyfriend?" Wait and see.

The Trouble Boy is engaging and fun despite being painfully familiar territory for the genre. A blurb from Christopher Rice and sexy Dolby's flashy new website should light a flame under it. ▼

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MUSIC & HORSES

Russian around

Mark Nadler to perform at the Geary

by Richard Dodds

What's an extroverted, gay, Jewish piano prodigy to do in Waterloo, Iowa? First you cry. "I came out of the womb and the doctor didn't have to slap me because I was already crying," said cabaret artist Mark Nadler. And then you plot your escape.

"I got a job when I was 10 playing piano at a saloon in Cedar Falls, and I eventually earned enough money to buy myself an education at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan so I wouldn't have to go to high school at home, because that was my biggest dread. I would get beat up at least twice a week, and now that I look back, I don't really blame these kids, because I was such a freak. But my reaction then was, 'Oh, yeah? In that case I'm going to be what I am, but even more so.'"

At Interlochen, where you could take dance instead of gym, his personality was able to take off — even if it did get him kicked

out of the piano department for goofing up a Beethoven piece with jokes, a rented tailcoat, and an on-his-knees Al Jolson-style finish. "The piano staff immediately decided I would be happier in the drama department," Nadler said. "That was the end of my piano lessons for the rest of my life."

But not the end of his piano-playing, which will be on view along with his singing, piano-bench tap-dancing, and comic asides in *Tschaikowsky (and Other Russians)*, opening a five-performance run Feb. 29 at the Geary Theatre. The 80-minute performance was born in a New York cabaret in 2002, but Nadler says it belongs in a theater.

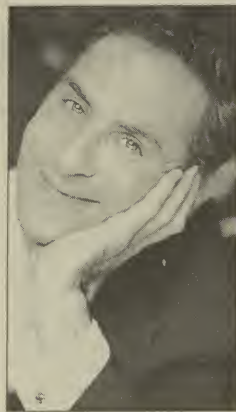
"It's a very dense show," he said in a phone interview. "It requires an awful lot of concentration, and if you have drinks and food in front of you while you're trying to pay attention, you don't get as much out of it."

The show is built around the tongue-twisting song "Tschaikowsky" that Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin wrote for *Lady*

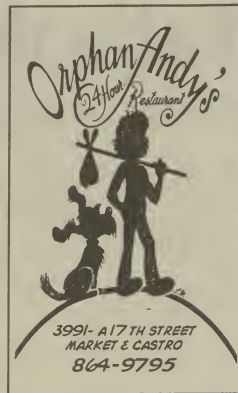
in the Dark, which Danny Kaye first performed. The song lists dozens of Russian composers, both the famous and the forgotten, and Nadler thought it might make a fun number if he played a bit of each composer's work and offered a few comments about their lives. "It turned out it wasn't a number," he said. "It was a show."

While the show does contain bits of music from many of those mentioned in the song, Nadler

page 44 ►



Piano maestro Mark Nadler



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Interspecies communication: A man and his horse get sentimental.

Horses on a high

'Cavalia': New Age bathos

by Richard Dodds

Cavalia is an equine version of music by Enya: moody, ethereal, and elegant. The soothing sounds of new-age background music have their place, but *Cavalia* creates a curious hybrid that might be called "background spectacle." The only problem is it's in the foreground.

Not all of the Canadian-born show is like watching animated tableaux, and the second half is certainly livelier than the first. Created by one of the founders of Cirque du Soleil, it shows its pedigree in the quasi-spiritual horse-man aura that surrounds the production.

Unlike Cirque du Soleil, which performs nearly in the round, *Cavalia* is staged on a huge proscenium stage with wings long enough for horses to arrive and leave at full gallop. That mostly happens in the second-act, when the show pretty much mimics the stunts of a Wild West show, but without the guns, cowboys, and Indians. Costuming is mostly mystical medieval. Projections of rain, forests, coliseums, and other atmospheric visuals are displayed on a Cinerama-sized cyclorama, and snow and leaves occasionally

fall from devices located high in the peaked tent.

Many of the scenes feature the handsome and luxuriously coiffed horses doing steps and maneuvers that are no doubt difficult to achieve, but are not all that spectacular to behold. Tumblers and acrobats sometimes ply their crafts to add to the visual interest of, say, a couple of horses maintaining a V-formation as they walk together for a few yards.

Frederic Pignon is the show's horse master, and he has several solo spots in which he turns horses into playful pups who roll around in the sand, and lick his face as if it were a giant sugar cube. But then he coaxes the suddenly less pliant horses into kneeling bows that draw "ahhs" but looks uncomfortable for the animals.

Cavalia has its moments of enchantment and marvel, but the former feels manufactured and the latter comes too infrequently. It's a horse show of a different color alright, but that color is a muted pastel under the big top. ▼

Cavalia will run in its tent near SBC Park through March 5. Tickets are \$41-\$73. Call (866) 999-8111 or go to cavalia.net.

ART DECO

1910-1939



Above: Tamara de Lempicka, *Jeune fille en vert*, ca. 1927. Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. ©Kizette Foxhall de Lempicka. Licensed by MIMI NY, a division of ArtMM Inc., <http://museummasters.com/>. Right: photo by Cindy Lewis.

This is the grandest presentation of the style ever staged. More than 300 works capture what is widely considered to be the most popular style of the 20th century. Highlights include the specially restored foyer of London's Strand Palace Hotel, a 1937 car classic — Cord 812 Phaeton, fashion by Lanvin and Schiaparelli, Tiffany silver, and paintings by Lempicka, Delaunay, and Stella. Organized by the V & A London, the show opened there to rave reviews:

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Latin rhythms and colors

Salsa, tango and more out on CD

by Stephanie von Buchau

Salsa, tango, bossa nova, and Afro-Cuban jazz are among the Latino popular music forms I've been familiar with all my life. Yet it wasn't until the ascendancy of Astor Piazzolla (1921-92), the Argentine composer and bandoneon virtuoso, that purely classical musicians began to pay close attention to this treasure trove of rhythms, colors and melodies that had been under their noses all along. Now that the serious record business is in crisis, I'm sure some of the Latino-classical crossover albums that are re-released every month were made simply to make money.



Yet many of them are appealing as a sub-genre of their own. Gidon Kremer, the Kronos Quartet (both on Nonesuch), Yo-Yo Ma and John Williams (on Sony Classical) have produced at least two dozen albums among them

with Latino roots — many of them glosses on Piazzolla, though to tell the truth, nobody plays Piazzolla like the master himself. Ma's latest Latino adventure, *Obrigado Brazil* (a bestseller and 2004 Classical Crossover Grammy winner) has already spawned a sequel, *Obrigado Brazil Live in Concert* (Sony Classical), that I like even better than the studio album.

That album fueled a world tour by Ma and his collaborators, Cuban clarinetist and composer Paquito D'Rivera, British pianist

three as well as plays guitar), three terrific rhythm numbers by D'Rivera and single pieces by Gismondi, Bandalim, Mariano and Barroso, plus the lovely "Menino" by Sergio Assad. Despite the title offering "thanks" to Brazil, rhythms and dances from Argentina, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela are represented. This is "easy listening" in its purest form.

Afro-Cuban take

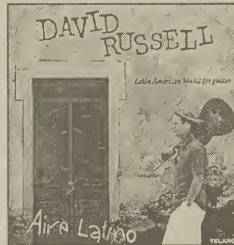
I'm not sure how to characterize *Classic Meets Cuba* (Sony Clas-

The king of classical guitarists, now that Julian Bream is retired, has to be the Aussie John Williams.

Kathryn Stott, Brazilian bassist Nilson Matta, percussionist Cyro Baptista, the Assad brothers guitar duo and bossa nova vocalist Rosa Passos. This recording is from their Carnegie Hall stop last September, and one of the reasons I prefer it to the studio album is that it opens with Piazzolla's "Libertango," one of the most exhilarating ensemble pieces from the master's repertory. Other Piazzolla works include "Tango Suite" and "Zita," both arranged by Sergio Assad for guitar duo and cello.

There are also three bossa novas by the immortal Antonio Carlos Jobim (Passos sings all

sical), a crossover album to end them all by three young German classical musicians and their Cuban percussionist pals. Known as the "Klazz Brothers," the three Teutons arrange Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Bizet, Haydn and Rimsky-Korsakov with Afro-Cuban rhythms underlined by timbales and congas. Some of it just doesn't translate to my ear — was there ever a piece more square than "Für Elise?" Yet the excerpt from Mozart's G-minor Symphony in mambo rhythm will keep this album on my overcrowded shelves. For the curious only.



The current love affair between classical musicians and Latino music is not confined, thankfully, to crossover arrangements. Guitarists in particular are attracted to the compositions of South and Central America's great, unsung composers. The young Scottish guitarist David Russell was raised in Menorca, which may account for his insinuating ease with Latin rhythms. His new album *Arie Latino*, for Telarc, is a series of solos for guitar by famous composers — Barrios, Lauro, Ponce and Villa-Lobos, but also by the Argentinians Morel ("Sonatina" dedicated to Russell), Ramirez, Cardoso and Falu, Brazilians Pernambuco and Reis, Salvadoran Carlos Payes and Paraguayan Pablo Escobar. Russell's guitar has a natural, unforced sound.

The king of classical guitarists, now that Julian Bream is retired, has to be the Aussie John Williams. Having recorded every



classical guitar piece available in the last 30 years, Williams has turned his musicological skills and fleet fingers to Aboriginal, African, Cuban and Latino music. He doesn't just play isolated pieces; he puts together a seminar in cultural history that is also musically exhilarating because his technical expertise is matched by genuine love of unusual music. In *El Diablo Suelto* (Sony Classical), Williams chooses pieces by Venezuelan composers which combine a musical heritage from indigenous Indians, invading Spaniards and African slaves.

What emerges is a series of sensational dances that get every bone in your body twitching, plus some lovely romantic melodies. Except for Antonio Lauro, most of these composers are unknown outside their country. The arrangements are by the legendary Alirio Diaz, and Williams is joined in several numbers by Alfonso Montes, who plays the *cuatro*, a small, four-stringed guitar known as the Venezuelan national instrument. Williams' scholarly program notes alone are worth the price; the music and playing are superb. ▼

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THEATRE

Literate emotions

'Vita & Virginia' at Theatre Rhinoceros

by Richard Dodds

Scandalous loves affairs. Notorious lesbians. These are the type of terms that have been used by chroniclers of the 1920s relationship between Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West. But in their letters that make up the play *Vita & Virginia*, there is little acknowledgment of any big social waves their actions may be causing. Their world only occasionally intersects with the everyday planet revolving on a different axis.

Theatre Rhino is offering the Bay Area premiere of *Vita & Virginia* in a well-staged and confidently performed production that will likely spur many viewers to seek these authors' works, perhaps especially Woolf's novel *Orlando*.

Woolf published the novel in 1928, just as the love affair between her and the poet Sackville-West was waning under the strain of Virginia's depressions and Vita's other romances. *Orlando*, which plays an important role in *Vita & Virginia*, is a gender-bending fancified biography of Sackville-West in which the title character begins as an Elizabethan nobleman who evolves into a liberated woman of the 1920s.

Orlando is just one example of the different playing field that Vita and Virginia lived out their lives and careers. Much of this comes through in their letters, in which ardor is mixed with a literary panache that can sometimes trump the sentiment. After receiving a warm letter from Virginia, Vita replies, "I nearly dropped a tear in my poached egg."

Taking charge

Actress Eileen Atkins adapted two decades of letters into the play that was first staged in England in 1992 and was seen in New York in 1994 with Atkins as Virginia and Vanessa Redgrave as Vita.

Vita was the dynamic one of the pair, eagerly finding adventures in Persia, Afghanistan, or Hollywood with her diplomat (and homosexual) husband. This comes across strongly in Jennifer Grimes' charged performance that creates a Vita who is a life force Her witty bravado is part of an armor.

Carolyn Cox offers a warm take on the troubled Virginia, and finally reveals the internalized emotional fires as her relationship with Vita runs into resentments and jealousies.

Director Gemma Whelan does a good job at keeping the epistolary nature of the play from becoming static, and at times Vita and Virginia appear to sharing the same space (and several deep kisses). More importantly, Whelan keeps the emotional tones on track.

Vita & Virginia is not exactly an exciting play, at least not in familiar ways, but it is a play of expansive emotions expressed with uncommon literacy. And it certainly makes you want to know more about these extraordinary women. ▼

Vita & Virginia will run at Theatre Rhino through March 13. Tickets are \$15 - \$25. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.



Dynamic duo: Carolyn Cox (left) as Virginia and Jen Grimes as Vita.

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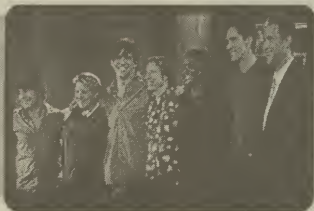
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Star search

by Glen Helfand

Still Holding by Bruce Wagner
(Simon & Schuster, \$25)

Hollywood has spawned a whole category of fiction that includes everyone from trashy Jackie Collins to classic Nathaniel West. In so many novels set in Tinseltown, characters are thinly veiled real-life celebrities, and they come across as archetypes of the modern age. Our adoration and the mighty, multimillion-dollar salaries are examples of the trust we place in film stars. We yearn for their successes and resent it with the kind of evil bitchery that pervades a

nonfiction recounting like Kenneth Anger's pointed classic *Hollywood Babylon*.

Much of the literary appeal of Bruce Wagner's novels is his mixture of all those genres. He's a powerful writer whose fixation on the locus of the entertainment industry is a deeply observed mixture of gossip, social satire and unflinching soul-searching. Wagner has titled the books in his noted Hollywood trilogy after cell-phone phrases — *I'm Losing You*, *I'll Let You Go*, and his latest, *Still Holding* — and the duality of those statements is the writer's stock-in-trade. The novels depict the Industry town as a vast plateau of lost souls, people yearning not only for fame,

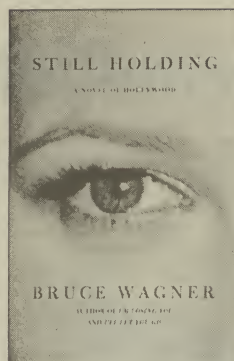
wealth and power, but a sense of spiritual redemption, not to mention their physical well-being. Often, these elements come together in duplicitous Hollywood benefit galas, something Wagner has included in other books. In *Still Holding*, there are movie-colony fundraising tributes and visits from Tibetan monks with star-studded audiences who paid their personal assistants a pittance to find them front-row seats.

Duplicity, it turns out, is a recurrent theme here. As in a Robert Altman film, Wagner sets up a loosely interwoven group of characters that revolves around Kit Lightfoot, a Brad Pitt beauty with a Richard Gere interest in Buddhism; and Viv Wembly, a glam careerist fiancé who stars in a *Friends*-like sitcom called *Together*. Lightfoot has a serious spiritual practice that is easily exploitable in the tabloids but doesn't quite get him roles in street-cred-building indie films.

Wagner freely mixes his fictional characters with actual movie-biz celebs, putting Lightfoot in the position of being considered for the next Darren Aronofsky film, about a famous personage who is stricken with brain damage. Lo and behold, life imitates art as Kit suffers a serious head injury after dismissing a loose-cannon autograph hound. Struggles for normal speech patterns are accompanied by public expressions of sadness from followers, whose interest also mobilizes armies of ambulance-chasing paparazzi.

Spirit world

Kit is positioned as a spiritual



leader — during his difficult convalescence, he's visited by Ram Dass and Robert Thurman, Uma's Zen-scholar dad — although Wagner points to the problematic nature of belief, especially in Hollywood. In another narrative strand, Lisanne McCadden, an overweight assistant for a powerful Industry attorney, becomes fixated on the movie star and his spiritual connections, her fantasies commingling *Teen Beat* and Tantric sex, brawn and Buddhism. But Lisanne's tenuous sanity, her deep fears of flying, and issues of self-esteem lead her to shopping trips to the Bodhi Tree, a famous LA spiritual bookstore, where she takes scriptures far too literally.

The tragicomic realm of celebrity lookalikes takes on a double-edged meaning here. Another pivotal plotline involves an aspiring young actress who's a dead ringer for Drew Barrymore and gets work in that identity. The doppelganger, while working a car show, meets cute a sexy Russell Crowe impostor, whose bad-boy antics are many steps below the actual star's on the outlaw scale. Faux Drew and Russell end up co-

habitating and co-starring in a new Spike Jonze film on the theme of celeb lookalikes. With this development, Wagner again points to the ways in which stars become deities, with acolytes serving as stand-ins for devotion. A Barbra, for example, recalls a story in which Streisand's real mom hung out with her when her daughter wasn't available.

Where his other books have seemed almost operatic in a rich, sometimes overwrought prose style, Wagner here simplifies a bit to enumerate current Hollywood properties. The new book is full of date-stamped references to specific films and television shows, Benifer and Sofia Coppola, creating cause to wonder how the book will read, say, next month. Clearly the decision to rely on such perishable tidbits is quite conscious on the author's part, as it sets up a contrast between the enduring appeal of spiritual enlightenment with fleeting fame. Yet the book's reliance on *Variety* subscriptions doesn't always make so solid a case.

Wagner has always reveled in the abject, and this book has its fair share of vivid sequences that describe corporeal extremes — projectile vomit, uncontrollable bowels, self-mutilation, bloody gang-bangs and knowingly described homo hospital-room rape. *Still Holding* is chock-full of salacious ingredients, but the tone is almost moral, if not exactly hopeful. The characters face triumphs of success as much as nose-dives into madness and tragedy. This may not be Wagner's masterpiece, but he's worth holding on the line for a next installment. ▼

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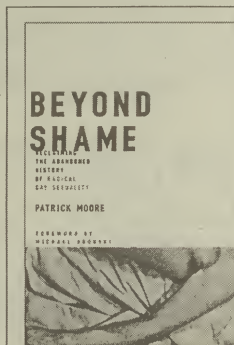
Performance art

by Jim Nawrocki

Beyond Shame: Reclaiming the Abandoned History of Radical Gay Sexuality by Patrick Moore; Beacon Press, \$25

At the very beginning of *And the Band Played On*, his monumental history of AIDS, Randy Shilts describes the day that ships from all over the world entered New York harbor for the 1976 US Bicentennial celebration. In Shilts' narrative, the arrival of these ships, and the sailors on them, is emblematic of the unique set of factors that gave rise to the AIDS epidemic. Their arrival also serves as a metaphor for the beginning of the end (though no one realized it at the time) of the sexual freedom of the 1970s. The notion that the gay sexual culture of "The Me Decade" caused AIDS has become a standard trope of recent social history. Many conservative and radical right observers have taken the "promiscuity = AIDS" argument even further, casting AIDS, in moral terms, as punishment for an era of irresponsibility and hedonism.

In the above-mentioned reading of history, then, one of the terrible legacies of AIDS is shame. In his new book, *Beyond Shame: Reclaiming the Abandoned History of Radical Gay Sexuality*, Patrick Moore posits a new interpretation of the gay sex culture of the 1970s that attempts to liberate gay men from a post-AIDS case of collec-



tive bad faith.

In his introduction to the book, Moore states his thesis straightforwardly: "This book is an attempt to encourage gay people to see the sexual experimentation of the '70s as a powerful and laudable part of our legacy, rather than as an act of self-destruction." In later chapters, he asserts it more boldly. He describes the gay sex culture of the '70s as politically charged "performance art" that was not only in the process of redefining gay sexuality in radically new terms, but also had the potential to transform heterosexual erotic life. Moore believes that it's necessary to acknowledge this radical project for what it was, and what it could have become. While he concedes that the sexual exploration of the '60s and '70s crossed into all categories of orientation and gender identity, he maintains that "gay male sex, now

so entirely identified with AIDS, is in particular need of a corrective."

Sex terrain

In administering this corrective, Moore offers an explication of some of the notable elements of the '70s-era gay male sexual culture, particularly the sex clubs of the time. He devotes separate chapters to such famed New York locales as The Mineshaft and The Saint, and to San Francisco's Catcombs. (He also examines, in other chapters, the films of Fred Halsted and the social texture of the East Village.) In discussing all of these unique sexual territories, Moore makes the claim that one of the "creative accomplishments" they allowed was the subversion of heterosexual values. This observation has certainly been made before, but not in the context of Moore's argument, i.e., that the particular gay sexual culture of the time was a product of unique historical circumstances, that it had the immediacy and force of an artistic movement, and that it had the potential to create a new world for everyone.

Given his subject matter, it would be easy for Moore to lapse into the academically-induced jargon that typifies much current social and cultural history. Moore's prose is thankfully free of such posturing. But *Beyond Shame* is scholarly, in its own way. Moore refers often to formidable sources like Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality*. But he also cites less academic voices such as

next page ►

BOOKS

Gay men & movies: fabulous relationship

New book gives gay perspective on film

by Tavo Amador

Why do gay men react to movies differently from other people? In *Fabulous! A Loving, Luscious, and Lighthearted Look at Film from the Gay Perspective* (Broadway Books, \$16.95), Donald F. Reuter provides some answers to this intriguing question.

In his coy and gushy introduction, Reuter says that as the most marginalized and invisible group of the 20th century, gay men naturally responded differently to films. We looked at male stars as sex objects, and therefore identified with female stars in romantic situations. This was likely true even for gay men who otherwise didn't identify with women. Yet many male stars women found romantic, like Fred Astaire or David Niven, weren't sexually desirable to gay men.

For gays who did identify with women emotionally, certain actresses had special appeal — those who were sexually aggressive or impossibly glamorous (Mae West, Marlene Dietrich); dominant and successful in a man's world (Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck); victimized survivors (Judy Garland); beautiful rebels who broke the rules and got away with it (Elizabeth Taylor); or boyish, elegant sophisticates (Audrey Hepburn). Comparatively recent icons, like Barbra Streisand and Cher, both of whom would symbolize ugly-duckling-to-swan makeovers, reached out to gay males and were embraced by them.

Reuter's answers as to why this happens are inconsistent and vague. In addressing the question he raises, he provides such a wide range of examples that a reader may conclude that a movie exists for every gay male to view in his unique way. No kidding. Despite that, *Fabulous!* has some entertaining insights and refreshing selections — and even more surprising omissions.

Reuter's choices are, appropriately, highly personal, although many of the usual suspects appear: *All About Eve* ('50), *Sunset Boulevard* ('50), *The Women* ('39) and *Thelma and Louise* ('91). He also picks some surprises, like *The Sound of Music* ('65), although his argument on its behalf fails. Omitted, on the other hand, are *Something for Everyone* ('69) in which Michael York plays a servant who seduces a countess (Angela Lansbury) and her son; or the hilarious adaptation of Terence McNally's *The Ritz* ('76), about a gay New York bathhouse in the pre-AIDS era. He deliberately excludes films like *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* ('96), *My Beautiful Laundrette* ('85), *The Boys in the Band* ('70), because they were aimed at the "gay market." (Who did he think the audience was going to be for *Can't Stop the Music* ('80), which is included?)

'Real' women

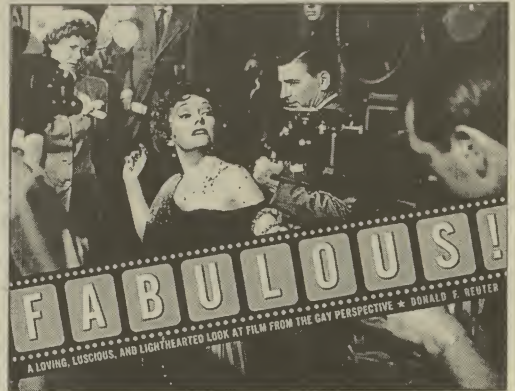
Suddenly, *Last Summer* ('59) is one of Reuter's choices, but his discussion of Tennessee Williams is flawed. He accepts one of the homophobic criticisms leveled at the playwright by some straight reviewers: that his women were actually drag queens, that "real"

women didn't behave like Blanche Du Bois, Maggie the Cat, and Alexandra del Lago. That claim is nonsense. In fact, Williams' women gave voice to feelings, especially sexual ones, that are now commonplace. Gay men did identify with his women, in part because his plots often involved homosexuality, but even more because of the universality of their emotions.

Fabulous! correctly mentions director Douglas Sirk's appeal to gay men, choosing *Imitation of Life* ('59) to argue his case. This overwrought camp melodrama has all the virtues of grand opera except music, but isn't nearly as gay as *All That Heaven Allows* ('55), in which Rock Hudson's reluctance to wed Jane Wyman has a subtext that was obvious to informed audiences then, and is astonishing and funny today.

Reuter is stronger discussing why forgotten hits, like *The Best of Everything* ('59) or *Where the Boys Are* ('60), and musicals like *A Star Is Born* ('54), *Cabaret* ('72) and *Chicago* ('02), appeal to us; and he does an excellent job on *Cobra Woman* ('44). His juxtaposition of *Mildred Pierce* ('45) and *Mommie Dearest* ('81) is original and thoughtful.

The appeal of *Boogie Nights* ('97) is accurately assessed, but his analysis of Cary Grant in *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* ('48) fails to mention a key point made by Pauline Kael: how



often in his movies Grant was pursued by aggressive women. She implied that this was an obvious hint at Grant's homosexuality. It also challenges Reuter's assertion that Montgomery Clift was the most important gay actor in Hollywood history.

Despite these caveats, Reuter's book is a must for anyone interested in movies and their appeal, whether to gay audiences or others. It raises excellent questions that will stimulate lively discussions. And that is indeed *Fabulous!* ▼

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Beyond Shame

◀ previous page

John Waters and Cookie Mueller. He draws, as well, upon novels and memoirs that chronicle the time, such as Brad Gooch's *The Golden Age of Promiscuity*, Felice Picano's *A House on the Ocean*, *A House on the Bay*, and Edmund White's *The Farewell Symphony*. Moore should also be credited for his painstaking efforts to cite such small but influential publications of the time as *Fag Rag* and *Queen's Quarterly*.

Though his research is solid, Moore does not claim to be an historian. Because he did not ac-

tually experience the milieu that he writes about, his book is not a memoir. But it is an extended elegy, of sorts, haunted as it is by the prospect of "what might have been." It even concludes with a long list (like an extended tombstone) of the many creative people who lost their lives, and were lost to us, because of AIDS. (Moore devotes a portion of the book to explaining the work of The Estate Project for Artists with AIDS, the group that commissioned it.) *Beyond Shame* is a fascinating fusion of social, cultural, sexual and even art history. And it's a valuable reinterpretation of a crucial phase in 20th-century gay life. ▼

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Theron

◀ Arts cover

stars, how could she not become Woolf? I, for one, was unmoved.

We know the Academy loves hookers and alcoholics, but why do they go gaga when beautiful women toss aside their compacts and paste? Is it a surprise that some lookers have talent? Or is it a reward for saying no to vanity? There's a raft full of less-gorgeous contemporary actresses who have heretofore been more interesting than either Kidman or Theron: Lili Taylor, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Toni Collette, Frances McDormand, Illeana Douglas, Amanda Plummer, and Chloë Sevigny come to mind. Any of them could characterize Woolf and Wuornos without relying so heavily on the magic of off-camera personnel. They'd find their inner monster by acting. Not that Theron doesn't, and not that she should be penalized for being beautiful. But beauty becomes an issue when someone as stunning to look at as Theron renounces it. She gets extra credit just for pulling off the stunt.

Tart history

There is an established history of Oscars bestowed upon babes who dress down onscreen. The delicately beautiful Luise Rainer impersonated a gaunt Chinese peasant, complete with narrowing eyeliner, for '37's *The Good Earth*, and it's hard not to feel that both Barbara Stanwyck (*Stella Dallas*) and Greta Garbo (*Camille*) were robbed that year. Grace Kelly wore frumpy sweaters and a sneer for *The Country Girl* in '54, and was suddenly hailed as a great dramatic actress. Ditto Sophia Loren for her wartime

rape victim in *Two Women* ('61). Halle Berry suspended her Revlon contract long enough to deglam for *Monster's Ball* in 2001, and it paid off spectacularly. Elizabeth Taylor put on pounds, a salt-and-pepper fright-wig, and aging makeup for her bravura turn as Martha, the harpy incarnation of '66's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* The performance is unforgettable, but it was her last stop on the Oscar train. Though she is now the most beloved living icon of old Hollywood, her career veered due south post-Martha.

Among Oscar-winning men, prettiness is not a prerequisite to impress. Fredric March gave the ultimate transformative performance in *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in '31/32. The face-paint he wears for the role might elicit chuckles, but his commitment has power. Jose Ferrer won for Cyrano de Bergerac in '50 — his nose needs no introduction. Sir John Mills, at 96 the only living remnant of the generation that included John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson and

Marlon Brando stuffed cotton balls in his cheeks, had his hair thinned, and grew a paunch to win Best Actor. Tom Hanks went on a starvation diet to play a man with AIDS in '94's *Philadelphia*, and gave a sanctimonious performance that was right in tune with Hollywood's limousine liberals. Theron will probably take her

place amongst a closely related list: those actors who are transformed into nonfiction. Sometimes impersonations of real people seem so eerily spot-on that they must be rewarded. Such was the case for George Arliss as *Disraeli* ('29/30), Ben Kingsley as *Gandhi* ('82), Daniel Day-Lewis as the cerebral-palsied writer Christy Brown in *My Left Foot* ('89), Jere-

my Irons as Claus von Bülow in *Reversal of Fortune*, and Martin Landau as the drug-addled Bela Lugosi in *Ed Wood* ('94). Robert De Niro added major girth as prizefighter Jake La Motta in *Raging Bull* ('80), winning Best Actor over John Hurt, who spent all of *The Elephant Man* under burlap and foam rubber.

We wish Theron well, but if she wins the Academy Award this Sunday, a few cautions are in order. She's a prime target for the Oscar Curse, that wicked voodoo whereby a win gets you a limo ride out of the press room and into obscurity. This is her first nomination, and four of the last six Best Actress winners (Helen Hunt, Gwyneth Paltrow, Hillary Swank, Halle Berry) were also first-time nominees. None have yet been nominated a second time, and none are making choices that will get them near Oscar again. *The Core*, anyone? Memo to Theron: Study the careers of these four women and take heed. See you on the red carpet. ▼

If Theron wins, she's a prime target for the Oscar Curse, that wicked voodoo whereby a win gets you a limo ride out of the press room and into obscurity.

Laurence Olivier, won his only Oscar as the limping idiot mute in *Ryan's Daughter* ('70). It's an embarrassing spectacle to look upon: a great actor cloying for pity, unkempt and drooling. Elfin Joel Grey looked like a piece of Kabuki porcelain in *Cabaret* ('72) and took Best Supporting Actor away from no less than Al Pacino in *The Godfather*. Speaking of which,

should be recognized for Best Picture and Best Director." She'd also like to see a Best Actor win for Bill Murray in *Lost in Translation*. "It would be great to see him get recognized for a performance that was out of the pale of the normal Oscar-winning role."

For the past two years, La Sachet has hosted this event at Oakland's historic Paramount Theatre, although she admits that it wasn't easy "telling people from San Francisco to hop on BART and come to Oakland for Oscar night."

Aside from bringing the event into the heart of the San Francisco's gay community, Sachet cites an-

other big advantage of the move to the Castro. "The Paramount is such a historical landmark that they don't allow food in the theatre; you even have to eat your popcorn in the lobby. But in the Castro Theatre, you can eat, drink, stretch out and make yourself at home, which is great for a six hour party."

The event is the brainchild of Christopher Ruetz, Director of Special Events for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Presenting sponsors include Harry Lit's Castroebare Presents, Betty's List and Ggreg Taylor's ggreg.com. Castro stage-manager Richard Sabaltura will keep the magic running behind the scenes.

As the Oscar winners head to the Academy Governor's Ball, guests of the Castro Academy

Gala may head to the Fusion Sunday Tea Dance at 715 Harrison for the official afterparty sponsored by BigMuscle.com (\$20).

While you're not likely to find hot wings at any of this year's Oscar parties, the variety of San Francisco Oscar-night celebrations guarantees that a gay time can be had by all. ▼

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Oscar party

◀ page 37

King on everyone's mind, could *Return of the Queen* be far behind?

Other commercial break activities will include the presentation of awards in such categories as biggest contributor, most elegantly dressed man and woman, and (to the guest who predicts the most winners) most clairvoyant.

Sachet is personally rooting for *Return of the King* to rule them all and bring home the big prizes. "I really thought it was a great finale to a great series, and I think it

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Mark Nadler

◀ page 39

mostly uses 20th-century songs by Sondheim, Loesser, and other musical notables. "The whole thing started with this booking at the Algonquin, and I wanted a completely new show. So I put together a list of songs, and I started with 'Tchaikowsky' because that was going to be the big showpiece. But I noticed that a lot of the songs on my wish-list fit the stories I was telling about these Russian guys."

World of gigs

Nadler was speaking from Naples, Fla., where he and fellow cabaret singer KT Sullivan had been booked for the opening of a jewelry store. "It's a drag, but it's paying the bills," he said. "I also have Coos Bay, Oregon, and Whitefish, Montana on my schedule. It's very glamorous to be me. But very few people in the world of cabaret are able to work as much as I work."

After graduating from Interlochen, Nadler skipped college and headed straight for New York. "I worked in piano bars for 15 years, and it was really the best training-ground possible," he said. "You learn very quickly how to gain and keep people's attention because if you don't, you don't make tips. People compare me to Victor Borge, but it actually came from Bugs Bunny. I just find the way Bugs Bunny plays the piano extremely entertaining, and that was what I was trying to recreate. And, boy, did that bring in tips in the piano bars."

His keyboard frolics attracted

attention, and he began putting together acts that would take him into New York's cabaret rooms. "Little lucky breaks got me to know the right kind of people to help me step out of the piano-bar world. I was also a sort of bigger-than-life performer anyways."

It's a quality that doesn't work in every situation, like when he was hired to be Dame Edna's on-stage pianist on Broadway. "It was fun for about a week, and then it was a job," he said. "I admire Barry Humphries a lot, but for me it was less than satisfying, because the job by definition was that I was to sit down and shut up, and that's just not me."

It apparently never was, even back in Waterloo. "By the time I was 6, I was performing at the Kiwanis and Elks clubs and all of that. My parents were vastly entertained by me. My mother thought I was a hoot."

At age 12, he had come out to his parents, just in time for his bar mitzvah. At 19, he met the man who would be his partner for the next 18 years. "He had AIDS, and he died in 1999," Nadler said. "And then I was on the dating scene for about a year and a half, and that was as close to hell as I ever want to get. I found somebody three years ago. He's a classical pianist and orchestrator. He's 17 years my senior, which suits me perfectly, because he gets all the references." ▼

Tchaikowsky (and Other Russians) will run Feb. 29-March 14 at the Geary Theater. Tickets are \$14-\$40. Call 749-2228 or go to act-sf.org.

BOOKS

Wedding bells, civil rights

by David Lambie

Civil Wars: A Battle for Gay Marriage by David Moats; Harcourt, \$25

In these weeks when Mayor Gavin Newsom sounds the charge for gay marriage while openly gay member of Congress Barney Frank warns us to prepare for a backlash, it's instructive to open a book by a straight Californian turned New Englander detailing how we got to this place.

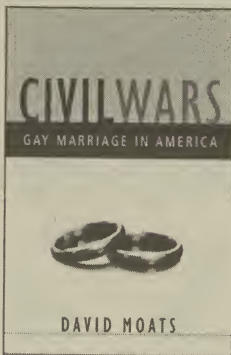
David Moats grew up in San Mateo, graduated from UC Santa Barbara and served in the Peace Corps before moving to Rutland, Vermont. A writer equally adept at quoting Harvey Milk as Martin Luther King, Moats outlines Vermont's revolutionary roots. In 1777, Ethan Allen led his Green Mountain Boys in a fight not just against the British, but also resisting claims on Vermont by the neighboring Royal colonies of New York and New Hampshire. Allen would rule an independent Vermont Republic until 1791, thus giving the future state an exceptional history shared only by Texas and California. Two hundred years later, a descendent of Ethan Allen would lend his name to a revolutionary lawsuit.

In *Civil Wars*, Moat's gripping account of the struggle to achieve gay marriage in Vermont, the author recalls a quiet Sunday morning in 1993 when a male voice cut through the silence of a Quaker meeting in Middlebury.

"I have something to say," The speaker was Stan Baker. He and his wife, Priscilla, were close friends with many of the regulars at Sunday meetings. But Priscilla was not there this morning.

"It's very hard," Baker said. "But I want to tell you I am coming out as a gay man, and my marriage to Priscilla is ending."

Four years later, Stan Baker would be in a deeply committed relationship with another man, and his name would be attached to a lawsuit seeking to allow same-sex couples to marry under existing Vermont law. As Moats succinctly explains, the Baker case didn't come out of nowhere, but was the result of years, in fact decades of struggle to legitimize the status of the Green Mountain State's fledgling queer community. Over the years, Vermont had granted its gay and lesbian citizens the right to adopt children, anti-discrimination protection, and the extension of hate-crime laws. The fight over the ability to marry would mark a dramatic break from years of creeping progress towards gay equality and, like the Green Mountain Boys, would pit neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother, and spark a forest-fire of debate that would upset the political status quo and challenge the compassion and leadership skills of a Democratic candidate for President.



Vermont vibrations

Moats explains how the fight for gay marriage in Vermont was led by a lesbian lawyer team who recruited a pair of female couples to join Stan Baker and his lover, putting a human face on the lawsuit. Lawyers Beth Robinson and Susan Murray racked up millions of dollars in pro bono expenses for their law firm, painstakingly constructing a case for same-sex marriage that would avoid the pitfalls that had defeated similar efforts in Hawaii.

Moats won a Pulitzer Prize for the Rutland Herald for his editorials tracking the contentious battle as it left the courts and nestled like an unexploded hand grenade inside the committee rooms of the imposing Capitol building in Montpelier. Moats has an incisive writing style that in bursts of short but emotionally charged sentences details the tricky job of uniting a state with a range of lifestyles and ideological fault lines as complicated as California, but confined to a territory just slightly larger than the Bay Area, with a population smaller than San Francisco.

While humor is not his long suit, Moats surprises with a portrait of Howard Dean that confirms the picture of the prickly candidate of the past year. At a key point in the debate when it appears that two Democratic state senators had gotten cold feet over the prospect of passing the civil unions bill, it was Governor Dean who lit a fire under their asses.

"Senator Shumlin said that when he brought up the idea of a delay, Dean's neck and face turned red. 'The veins were popping out of his neck,' Shumlin said. As Shumlin remembered it, Dean told them, 'Peter and Dick, every once in a while you have an opportunity to change history and do the right thing. And that's what we're going to do.' Shumlin said Dean was not ordinarily an emotional man, but in this instance he was furious. Shumlin and Sears left the meeting knowing there was no choice but to act."

Moats adds that while Dean would eventually sign the civil unions bill in private, or as some gay observers derisively noted, "in the closet," the governor made a

spirited public statement rallying state opinion in support of the bill.

Finally, a significant value of Moat's account comes from his shrewd analysis of just what was and was not accomplished in Vermont. Noting that the very term "civil unions" was invented on the spot to avoid the divisive label of marriage as well as what some queer supporters felt the demeaning name "domestic unions," Moats quotes a leading gay civil rights expert in a prophetic critique of why Vermont was an important victory, yet still just half a loaf: Evan Wolfson of the Freedom to Marry Collaborative says, "In Vermont, we won gay marriage, but I don't want gay marriage. I want marriage."

Moats contrasts Evan's all-or-nothing fervor with the pragmatic analysis of Yale law professor William N. Eskridge, Jr. Alluding to the nasty debate that barely carried the day for civil unions in Vermont, Eskridge "rejected the notion that civil unions paralleled the 'separate but equal' regime of the Jim Crow South." Moats concluded that "in Eskridge's view, Vermonters would learn by practice, that equal rights for gays and lesbians were not damaging to Vermont society or values, and eventually the practice of equality would lead to the full realization of constitutional rights. 'So equality comes on little cat's feet.'" ▼

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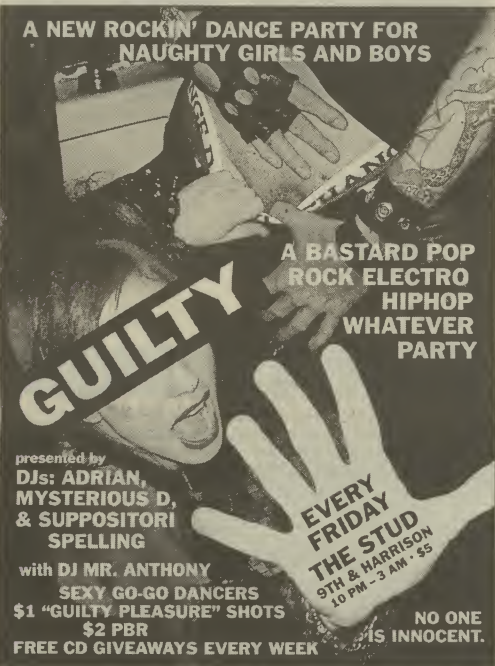


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Talking music with Jonatha Brooke

by Gregg Shapiro

After two successful self-released discs, *Live* and the harder-edged *Steady Pull*, Jonatha Brooke has returned with the stellar *Back in the Circus* (Bad Dog/Verve). This collection of originals and covers will touch listeners in ways that are unique to Brooke. While her devoted and diverse following will have no difficulty immediately connecting to Brooke's own songs, her stirring reinterpretations of songs by Alan Parson ("Eye in the Sky"), James Taylor ("Fire and Rain") and Brian Wilson ("God Only Knows") may cause the biggest stir.

Gregg Shapiro: There are circus references in both the new CD's title track and the song "No Net Below." Why is the circus a metaphor for you?

Jonatha Brooke: Pretty much anything you want it to be a metaphor for, the circus will do! About a year and a half ago I got remarried, so I entered that circus again — which is the best of circuses. And I moved to New York, which is certainly a circus. Just putting out a new record is kind of like getting back into the fray. It's a very cyclical thing. Once the record is out, you are a road dog, traveling town to town, shaking hands, gripping and grinning, and trying to get your stuff out there.

Few songwriters can express heartbreak better than you, and you continue to mine great songs from heartache. And yet, here you are newly re-married, so how does that work?

Yeah, what's up with that, right? I have no idea, because I'm incredibly in love and I'm in a very happy place! But I continue to be drawn to dark subject mat-



Jonatha Brooke returns.

ter, and to want to get at heart-break, complicated emotions, and strange, messed-up relationships. That seems to be way more interesting than a happy song. I tend to go there. People really connect to powerful emotion, and that's my gig. Everyone loves "Incon-solable." It's their favorite break-up song.

When I was demo-ing the first few songs, I fell in love with the sound of weird drum loops and samples. It was somehow a more contained drum sound, more intimate. I loved the balance of my vocals being really front and center, right in your face, closely miked, and these loops. I thought it was really poignant somehow. That became the template for my record. I tried live drums on some of the songs and they sounded wrong. I messed around with loops and samples. They're great samples; they're not cheesy. They're somehow in the same realm that my voice is.

Since you're well-known as a singer/songwriter, it was surprising to discover three cover tunes

on the new disc. Your version of Alan Parsons' "Eye in the Sky" has a torch-song quality to it.

I'm not a cover-song person, because the songs I most love I would never go near. But people kept throwing these ideas at me. My guitar player, Goffrey Moore, said that he had this cool idea for "Fire and Rain." "Eye in the Sky" is a really gorgeous song, and you never really knew it, because the production was so overwhelming and the delivery was sort of cold and brittle. I thought, "These aren't songs that I would have thought of on my own, so I'm not really attached to them, and I can really make them different."

2004 looks like it will be a good year for female singer/songwriters, with new releases by women from across the spectrum, including Janis Ian, representing one generation —

Oh, awesome!

— and Norah Jones representing another, and you smack dab in the middle.

I'm holding up the rope. I think it's a really open time for intelligent music. I think the public is so sick of this crap, the mindless, bubbly pop. It's tough because radio is so consolidated, it's hard for the indies to get through. We can't really pay for radio play. But I think there is a real hunger for substance. You can be sexy in a turtleneck; you don't have to show everything. I'm on a campaign for sexy, intelligent music with clothes on.

Just look at Diane Keaton in *Something's Gotta Give*.

Exactly! How sexy was she? She was the bomb. I love that movie! ▼

Jonatha Brooke plays the Fillmore on April 15.

Old recordings, new punch

by Tim Pfaff

Fans were slowly adjusting to the sharp decline in new, studio-recorded complete opera CD sets over the past few years when word leaked out that EMI planned to record its last ever, a *Tristan und Isolde* with Plácido Domingo and Christine Brewer, this year. It was like hearing that Ford was stopping making cars or Carter its little liver pills. A nuclear arms black-market and now this? How much can one be expected to bear?

Increasingly, enterprising companies (including EMI) are releasing live recordings, including important ones from the past. Curiously enough, two sterling examples — Orfeo's first-time CDs of the Herbert von Karajan-conducted *Tristan* that opened the second post-war Bayreuth Festival in 1952, and Testament's first-ever release of an Otto Klemperer-led Beethoven *Fidelio* live from Covent Garden in 1961 — compete directly with legendary EMI recordings. In splendid

sound despite their vintages, these are not historical oddities for "alternative" listening but, rather, interpretations to live with.

The Furtwängler *Tristan* (an EMI Great Recording of the Century) long considered the benchmark was only a month in the can when the young Karajan took the subterranean Bayreuth podium on July 23, 1952, to conduct Wieland Wagner's new *Tristan*. He had more to prove than that he had literally discarded his two Nazi party memberships, and responded with one of the most vital *Tristans* ever captured by the microphone. More important than its being timeless is how immediate it is. Karajan's is a feral, predatory realization of a dangerous score that also has the chops to relax for the conversational passages.

Wagner's words have rarely emerged so clearly, or registered with such impact, as they do here. Glorious as the Festspiel Orchestra is, this is a drama-centered account of a work that, today, those who can sing and play can't act, and vice versa. The Isolde, Martha Mödl, a legendary singer barely



remembered today, is electrifying, singing and phrasing faultlessly without losing the edge that comes from the dread of having five hours of this fearsome role roiling in your guts. There is none of the what-me-worry? off-handedness of Jane Eaglen's almost casual Isolde. This is a raging, desperate, love-addled woman who, her magical powers notwithstanding, earns every shred of her famous transcendence.

Chilean tenor Ramón Vinay has the baritone heft true Heldentenor bring to this killer role, and, like Mödl, is vocally omnipotent here. Instead of showing off, he intrepidly prowls the cavities of *Tristan's* tortured psyche with fearless insight, judiciously saving the bone-rattling outbursts for select moments. The love duet is among the most urgent ever recorded, at least until Helga Dernesch's and Jon Vickers' for Karajan 20 years later.

Ludwig Weber's agonized but immensely dignified King Mark

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Music that heals

More New Age music on disc

by Jason Victor Serinus

The category of New Age music has undergone a rapid and profound metamorphosis. New Age was originally coined to describe an era in which culturally-conditioned divisions and hierarchies based on sex, race, nationality, sexual preference, age, etc., are transcended by a universal appreciation of interconnectedness and respect. Gay liberation father Harry Hay called this the replacement of "object-object" consciousness with "subject-subject" consciousness. Likewise, New Age music initially referred to music that helped align listeners with the universal consciousness of sister-, brother-, and planethood.

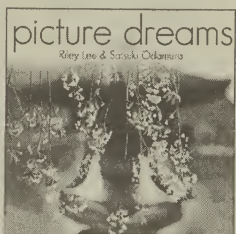
Alas, those seeking to maximize profits soon discovered that such higher ideals are antithetical to building huge corporate empires. New Age music devolved into a watered-down category that encompassed anything laid-back, mellow, or cool. Take your usual easy-listening schlock, throw in some birds, bubbling streams and synthesized strings, and *voilà*, you've got New Age music. In other words, package the aural equivalent of Prozac.

Here is an eclectic assemblage of uplifting, potentially transformational recordings that get to the heart of what healing and the New Age are all about.

Michael Hoppé - Solace (Spring Hill Music) As the Prague Symphony Orchestra plays the opening to Michael Hoppé's "The Majestic Land," the first of 12 original compositions, you may think you're listening to Dvorak or per-



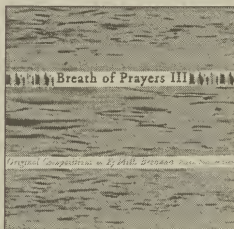
haps to a classic movie soundtrack. Given the composer/key-boardist's background, which includes scoring music for HBO's *The Sopranos* and several feature films, those influences are present in spades. But amidst the unabashed romanticism, sentimentality, and sameness of melodic line lies a genuine breath of solace and comfort.



Riley Lee & Satsuki Odamura - Picture Dreams (New World Music) This exquisite issue marks the 10th anniversary of collaborations between shakuhachi master Riley Lee and koto player Satsuki Odamura. The Texas-born Lee spent eight years studying in Japan, becoming the first non-Japanese to attain the rank of Grand Master (Dai Shihapi) in the shakuhachi bamboo flute tradi-

tion. He has since released 30 recordings, and performed in Lincoln Center, Boston Symphony Hall, and the Sydney Opera House. The equally adept Odamura left Japan in 1988 to become a key figure in increasing appreciation for the koto. She settled in Australia, where she teaches when not performing throughout the world.

The seven extended compositions on this disc are distinguished by a sparseness of instrumentation that heightens their emotional impact. Titles include an interpretation of Miyagi's famous "Spring Sea" and the original title-track, inspired by the sound of the late autumn wind at a mountain temple. Beautiful, serene music of the highest order.



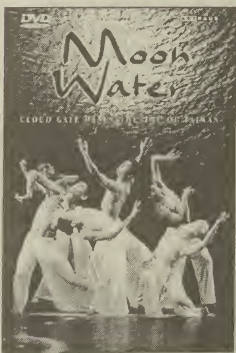
Ej Mills Brennan - Breath of Prayers III (cdbaby.com) Ej Mills Brennan, a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe in the Northeast woodlands, writes lovely, soulful compositions that speak of love, nature and the fate of our planet. Six instrumental works, ranging from "Candle Lit" for solo piano to others that mix piano, flute, wood flute, and hand drum, serve as a bridge from the five graced by Ej's evocative voice. ▼

Power to transform

Still more music of the New Age

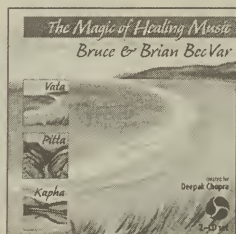
by Jason Victor Serinus

Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Harlem - Moon Water (Arthaus DVD-Video) Lin Hwai-min choreographs his Taiwan-born dancers to movements derived from Chinese Tai Chi martial art movements developed by the Master Chong Wei. Each of



nine sections is set to a different movement from one of Western music's most profound masterpieces, J.S. Bach's Six Suites for Solo Cello, as performed by Mischa Maisky. The results are as cross-culturally breathtaking as they are

breath-giving. Each dancer seems to move from her or his core, propelled by the seemingly inexorable flow of Bach and Hwai-min's genius. Music, movement, and human mastery flow as one, as West and East unite on a plane that leaves language far behind.



Bruce & Brian BecVar - The Magic of Healing Music (Shining Star Music) In the course of collaborating with David Simon at the Chopra Center for Well Being, Deepak Chopra, MD, asked the BecVar brothers to create music to complement the center's healing work. Three albums resulted: *Vata*, *Pitta*, and *Kapha*. Each contains morning and evening music designed to complement the three operating principles (*doshas*) of Ayurvedic Medicine, and are played to help bring the natural forces that govern our lives into

balance. The music, 120 minutes total, is available in both this two-CD set or on three separate CDs.

The differences among the three *doshas* — *Vata* controls movement, *Pitta* controls metabolism, and *Kapha* controls structure — determine the energy of the compositions. "Morning Vata" lolls along relaxed, "Pitta" bubbles along in a calming manner, and "Kapha" is decidedly more energetic. Mellow are the evening selections, to my mind more musically satisfying. Instrumentation is acoustic guitars, Shakti harp, bass, keyboards, recorder and flute. The booklet helps you understand which tracks may most help balance your constitution.

Arleen Auger - Love Songs (Delos) Born in Southern California, Arleen Auger became one of the most frequently recorded clas-

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Sundance schmoozefest

Front and center at the gayest straight film fest

by Darren Frei

Lesbian spies! Incestuous boy bands! Nympho terrorists! And that was just the line at the box office!

The 2004 Sundance Film Festival was one of the gayest in recent memory. Not only was a healthy crop of groundbreaking queer films unveiled, but the artists who made them, the distributors who clamored for them, and the journalists who couldn't stop asking questions about them schmoozed in a centralized setting for the first time. Located in the heart of the festival, near Main Street in Park City, Utah, the Queer Lounge invited everyone — the Machiavellian power player, the tortured auteur, the simple-minded cineaste — to a 10-day round of coffee-fueled meta-networking atop shag rugs, bean bags and cushy couches.

The door to the Queer Lounge was outfitted with a small sign in bold lettering: "Straights Welcome." It was a joke that seemed to befit the entire queer-eyed festival, where nearly one-fifth of the 255 accepted films had gay themes (or were of significant gay inter-

est). Not since 1991, when Todd Hayne's *Poison* won the dramatic competition and *Paris Is Burning* won the documentary competition, has it been so cool to be gay in Park City. That year's infamous "Homos Away From Home" party was even reincarnated! But let's get to the most notable LGBT films of Sundance 2004, many of which will trickle into queer film festivals before reaching art-house theaters, home DVD players, and cable outlets in the coming year.

Two gay-themed films competed in the dramatic category. Rodney Evans' *Brother to Brother*, a heartfelt exploration into the life of a black gay artist (Anthony Mackie) living amidst the Harlem Renaissance of the 1930s, was presented with a Special Jury Prize at the award ceremony. Earlier in the week, at one of the jam-packed screenings, Samuel L. Jackson joined the audience in giving it a standing ovation. "The fact that a film like this is in competition is a sign of health and diversification in queer cinema," said Sundance programmer Shari Frilot.

Veteran's rites

The other dramatic competition selection was *Harry and Max*,

directed by Christopher Munch, veteran of the "new queer cinema" movement. Focusing on the incestuous relationship between a washed-up boy-band member and his teen pop-idol little brother, the film marks a departure from Munch's prior work (*The Hours and Times*). "[The characters] were not crafted as much as they were in my previous films," said Munch. "It sounds corny, but the characters really just wanted their story told — they just came to me." One scene that's sure to raise more than just eyebrows has Max (Cole Williams) steering a car with one hand and groping his brother (Bryce Johnson) with the other, inducing a very authentic-looking erection. "I actually surveyed some knowledgeable friends beforehand to make sure it looked realistic," joked Munch.

There was no question of phallic authenticity in Bruce LaBruce's hardcore *Raspberry Reich*, which heated up an otherwise Arctic Mjndnight at the Egyptian Theater. Director of Programming John Cooper described this tongue-in-cheek anti-capitalist diatribe as "porno-political-palooza." At its core is Gunfrun, an East German terrorist who believes that heterosexual monogamy is a bourgeois construct that must be smashed to achieve revolution — so she makes her straight male apprentices have sex with each other. By the end of the screening, one audience member was so inspired by the manifesto that he forced his hand up my shirt, pinched my nipple and boldly declared, "I want hot sex now!"

An even hotter ticket — indeed, the most "buzzed about" queer film of the festival — was edited on Apple's iMovie and produced for \$218.32. Nineteen years in the making, Jonathan Caouette's pioneering *Tarnation* utilizes photos, Super-8 home movies, phone messages, DV diaries and dramatic reenactments to shed light on the 31-year-old's complex relationship with his schizophrenic mother. Upon seeing a rough cut of the film, John Cameron Mitchell and Gus Van Sant signed on as producers. Mitchell (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) said that critics wept and hugged each other after the first screening. During the Q&A, Caouette said that making the movie was a way of exorcising the demons of his past. "It was very therapeutic, like putting a cap on



John Cameron Mitchell and Bruce LaBruce helped gay up Sundance.

it," he said. "Now I'm ready to move on and make bigger and better films."

Angela Robinson turned her 2003 short, *D.E.B.S.*, into this year's feature of the same name. The sexy lesbian teen-spy action flick, which played to a sell-out crowd at the spacious Eccles Theatre, has also proven popular among LGBT film festival programmers, several of whom speculated about featuring the film as an opening- or closing-night selection. Screen Gems will release *D.E.B.S.* theatrically (with a surprising PG-13 rating, the first ever for an LGBT film) later in the year.

Another film that's certain to land at a theater near you is Ian Iqbal Rashid's *Touch of Pink*, which was picked up for distribution by Sony Pictures Classics. Though one critic dismissed it as another incarnation of *The Wedding Banquet*, the rousing ovation

at the end of the premiere indicated that the audience loved this romantic comedy. It's the story of Alim (Jimi Mistry), a gay Ismaili Canadian whose life is interrupted when his mother shows up to find him a proper Muslim girlfriend. Everyone at the afterparty couldn't stop talking about the ghost of Cary Grant (played to hilarious effect by Kyle MacLachlan), who advises Alim on the finer points of living in the closet.

Other bright spots included *Bright Young Things*, the directorial debut of out British actor Stephen Fry. Adapting from Evelyn Waugh's novel *Vile Bodies*, Fry employs sumptuous production design and searingly witty dialogue to zero in on the decadent social scene of 1930s London. Michael Sheen steals the show as the outlandish queer dandy, Miles, who flees to Paris to avoid British sodomy laws.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

Go T-Gina!

Goddess what a difference between comics in my day — closeted to the max — and the current fulsome blossoming of comix with a queer bent. I came of age in the '60s with *Betty* and *Veronica*, *Archie* and *Jughead* and the like, along with much *DC/Marvel* super-hero fare. I tried to read homoeroticism between the lines, and often it was there... if I dug... really deeply. Not even *Mad* had open queer content, unless it was camp. Now? *Holy Titsclamps*, *Batman*! Last weekend's packed *Alternative Press Expo* at the Concourse Exhibition Center was crawling with queers, and they found plenty of comix with up-front, no-holds-barred attitudes.

It's impossible to pick a clear favorite out of all the contenders. But if I have to pick, it's *T-Gina*, a comic by *Gina Kamensky*, delightfully detailing the tale of a fabulous Transgendered gal and her search for validation and a decent cup of coffee. I stopped by Ms. Kamensky's display, where she had copies of Issues No. 1 & 2 for sale, along with back issues of *Charlie Anders' other* magazine, in which *T-Gina* had been featured. So Gina's tight with Charlie girl, which explains a lot, and she's worshipped by *Kate Bornstein*, so she's in steller TG company. They're right on! It's got a *Dykes to Watch Out For* hominess, but with a punk-ass twist. *Alison Bechdel*, who was part of the queer cartoonists panel, broke the terrain, and now it's fertile ground for up-and-comers like Kamensky.

But then, across the aisle from *T-Gina*, I found the lovely Seattle-based pair *Robert Kirby* and *David Kelly* peddling copies of *Boy Trouble* #5,

which anthologizes a bunch of great gay guy-oriented comics, much of it by the brilliant *Kelly* and *Kirby*, but with many cutting-edge contributions by the like of *Steven MacIsaac* ("Fucking Desperate"), *Tim Fish* ("Behind Bedroom Doors"), *Craig Bostick* ("Stealing Heaven"), *Michael Fahy* ("A Message from Beyond"), and the ultra-fabulous *Joel Steinpreis* & *Lee Lawing* ("Diva Athena"), among others (I love you all!).

As for our local SF-based queer comics, you can't beat *How Loathe-some*, featuring strong, character-driven stories penned by *Tristan Crane*, with gorgeous goth-inspired art by *Ted Naifeh*. Those familiar with the local fetish and drag scenes will no doubt recognize a lesbian tranny-chaser character in issue #1 inspired by poet/playwright *Danielle Willis*, and a club from issue #4 called "Dragsback!" For more info, go to: www.howloathesome.com ▼



Novelist Patrick Califia (*Mortal Companion*, Suspect Thoughts Press) joins other authors for the 16th Annual Lambda Literary Awards at the Main Library. See Tuesday.



'Vita & Virginia'
@ Theatre Rhinoceros
 Theatre Rhinoceros presents the Bay Area premiere of *Vita & Virginia* by Eileen Atkins, directed by Gemma Whelan. In the passion and genius of the letters between Virginia Woolfe and her lover Vita Sackville-West, two revolutionary artists draw a startling connection between unconventional love and the creative inspiration. Their exploration of love, life and literature, documented in letters, is fashioned for the stage in a tender, tragic dialogue. With Carolyn Cox as Virginia Woolfe and Jennifer Grimes as Vita Sackville-West. \$15-\$25. 8pm (7pm Sun., plus 2pm Feb. 29 & March 7). Thru March 13. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.the-rhino.org

'Salò, or 120 Days of Sodom' @ YBCA Screening Room
 Evening Screenings at YBCA, curated by Joel Shepard, presents Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Salò, or The 120 Days of Sodom* (1975), one of the most controversial and widely censored films ever made. *Salò* reconsiders Pasolini's early premise of sexuality as a liberating force as it depicts the sexual and psychological atrocities visited on sixteen young men and women held hostage by a group of depraved fascist nobles at the end of WWII. Pasolini based the film on a book by the Marquis de Sade, but shifted the locale to the town of Salò, where his brother was killed during the war (and where he was arrested by Nazis). \$7 regular; \$4 senior/student/Center member. 7:30pm. Also on Sat., Feb. 28. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 901 Mission St. at 3rd. Tix: 978-2787; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Deb Margolin Master Class @ JSC
 Workshop: "Creative Writing For Performance Or For Any Reason At All," a master class with Deb Margolin. Begin to create a clear and lasting relationship between the desire to produce creative written text and the source from which such material comes and can always come. Using the techniques of storytelling, gender deconstruction, automatic writing, guided imagery and theater games, participants will generate richly personal text for use in performance or for any joyous purpose, and will study methods for tapping a source of clean, rich, resonant imagery which can be accessed at any time. Bring your favorite notebook or writing journal, and no matter how experienced or novice a writer you are, bring your beginner's mind. \$50 scholarships available/work exchange. Noon-3pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Info/Wheelchair Access: (415) 554-0402; www.jonsimscenter.org

Monarch's Reception @ Marlena's
 Anniversary Monarch's Reception. Come meet the Anniversary Monarchs of SF who will celebrate their anniversaries at either the Out of Town Show or Coronation. No cover, no host bar, appetizers. 5-8pm. Marlena's, 488 Hayes St.

'Out of Town Show' @ Ramada Plaza Hotel
 "Out of Town Show." Best Court Production performs at Coronation 2004. Performance priority given to Reigning Monarchs first. \$10 at the door. Doors open at 7pm; Show starts at 8pm. Crystal Ballroom, Ramada Plaza Hotel.

'Titty, Titty, Bang! Bang!' @ S.F. Citadel
 "Titty, Titty, Bang! Bang!" A Women's Dungeon Party and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund benefit. Help repeat the recent success of the breast cancer-related fundraiser women's parties at San Francisco's BDSM Community Center, The SF Citadel! Please have Female ID available, "upon request." RSVP's: \$10-\$20 sliding scale (til noon Feb. 27); \$20 at door. 8pm-1am (doors close at midnight). S.F. Citadel, 245 - 8th St. RSVP via email: redsphv@aol.com. Info: www.dykedaddydiva-sf.org

'Queer Dance Week'
 DanceSport and Same Sex Dance Championships kick off "Queer Dance Week" with international performers doing Swing and Ballroom dancing all night! Celebrity Guest Instructor Jonathan Bixby is an internationally recognized authority on several different forms of swing dance and has lectured and taught dance workshops all over the world since 1985. He has competed in numerous dance competitions, including performing swing in the first Gay Games. Call or visit the website for complete details including locations and times. \$20 prepaid; \$25 Door. Info: 415-305-8242; burnie@queerjitterbugs.com; www.SFQueerDanceCampExchange.com

'Coronation 2004' @ Gift Center Pavilion

The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc. presents "Coronation 2004: A Leather Fantasy Extravaganza!" His Most Imperial Majesty, the Jewel in the British Crown, Leather Emperor of All San Francisco, Michael Parsons, and Her Most Imperial Majesty the Thigh High Leather Empress of All of San Francisco, Empress Snatch, invite you to join in their fantasy evening of leather and family as they celebrate their reign! Oldest to the newest Court walks first. Fetish wear (leather, latex, chains, etc.) strongly encouraged or Black Tie and Evening Gowns. No Open Flames, No Confetti, No Glitter, No Balloons, No Bare Butts or Breasts! Tables of 10: \$65 per person (\$650 per table); \$50 per person (\$500 per table); \$40 per person (\$400 per table). Tables of 6: \$30 per person (\$180 per table). Standing Room: \$25 per ticket. Doors open at 5pm; Ball begins promptly at 6pm sharp! Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan St. Tix/info: Marlena's, 415-864-6672; email marlenaxxv@sbcglobal.net

'Portland Party' @ Club Rendez-Vous

Welcome royals and commoners alike to the famed "Portland Party" and the "Emperor & Empress of Alcatraz Contest." 11am. Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St.

Deb Margolin's 'O Wholly Night' @ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center for the Arts (JSC) welcomes Deb Margolin as a JSC Visiting Artist, performing "O Wholly Night and Other Jewish Solecisms." Margolin spins an intensely personal, meditative tale in this one-woman show, commissioned by and originally presented at the Jewish Museum. Drawing from Margolin's childhood, young adulthood, and recent years, the writer/performer expounds on her lifelong fascination with waiting for the Messiah. She recalls various incidents over the years — some rather innocuous, others more extraordinary — when she suspected the Messiah was present. Margolin weaves other definitively Jewish experiences and characters into her stories and fluidly incorporates Hebrew expressions in the monologue. \$15-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Info/Wheelchair Access: (415) 554-0402; www.jonsimscenter.org

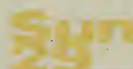
Lisa Geduldig @ Hyena Homo Comedy Hour
 Enjoy kosher comedy with Chinese food — oops! That's her other gig. Tonight the queer comic most closely associated with Asian cuisine, Lisa Geduldig, serves up tasty queer comedy along with comedy chefs Betsy Salkind, Doug Holcslaw, Regina Stoops, Arturo Galster, Ray Ferrar, and Nick Leonard. Beer & wine available. \$8. 8pm. Hyena Theater, 2390 Mission St., #304 (at 20th St). Tix/info: 321-3601.

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's Other Cinema hosts Rick Prelinger introducing two recent trauma-cautionaries: Bret Weinstein's feature-length *Half Highway*, an examination of 60s and 70s driver-ed films whose warning message was carried by way of frightful montages of mangled bodies and the blood-curdling screams of car-crash victims; and Abel Klabbaum's half-hour *History of Choking*, a hilarious and highly informative survey of the Heimlich maneuver. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia Street (near 21st). Info: (415) 824-3890; www.atastie.org



Jim Santi Owen joins with the Rova Saxophone Quartet in 'Other Minds 10' at YBCA. See Thursday.



'Hollywood to Bollywood' @ Concourse Exhibition Center

Academy of Friends, AT&T, Levi's, Mercedes-Benz, and lovejoy (creative) present The 24th Annual Academy of Friends Gala, "Hollywood to Bollywood." A night of glamour, temptation, and intrigue. Experience the grandeur and elegance of Hollywood combined with the exotic and alluring mysteries of India's Bollywood in an evening overflowing with sensory-filled splendor. Or simply enjoy the Academy Awards® on the huge viewing screen while sampling gourmet delicacies from the finest restaurants, caterers, and winemakers at some 80 indulgent tables. Be lured by the vast Mumbai Bazaar Silent Auction, courtesy of leading merchants. Then dance the night away with DJ Neil Lewis. Your ticket purchase benefits 13 select Bay Area HIV/AIDS organizations: AGUILAS (www.sflaguilas.org); Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center (www.apiwelness.org); Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland (www.childrenshospitaloakland.org); Diablo Valley AIDS Center (www.dvac.org); Do-Lores Street Community Services (www.dscs.org); Glide (www.glide.org); Health Connection of Santa Clara County (www.healthtrust.org); Health Services Agency of San Mateo County (www.smhealth.org); Huckleberry Youth Programs (www.huckleberryyouth.org); New Leaf (www.newleafservices.org); Project Inform (www.projectinform.org); STOP AIDS Project (www.stopaids.org); and Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (www.tarcslf.org). \$200. 5pm-midnight. The Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th St. at Brannan. Tix: 415-995-3890; Under One Roof, 549 Castro St.; store.academyoffriends.org

'The Academy Gala' @ The Castro Theatre

Join Donna Sachet for the much-anticipated Oscar® Night fundraising event, "The Academy Gala," a glamorous evening watching the live broadcast of the 76th Annual Academy Awards ceremony on the big-screen at The Castro Theatre! The Academy Gala is a benefit for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development of the means to cure and control cystic fibrosis and improve the quality of life for those with this genetic disease afflicting children and young adults nation-

wide. Enjoy Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres Buffet, Entertainment, Silent Auction, Raffle & the Live Broadcast of the 76th Annual Academy Awards. \$65 General Admission. Festivities begin 4pm. Tix/info: (510) 267-9699 or visit <http://www.academygala.com>

San Jose Gay Pride Oscar Night @ Capitol Club Athletics

Capitol Club Athletics in Downtown San Jose will be transformed into the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood as the San Jose Gay Pride Celebration Committee honors the best in motion pictures at their annual "Night at the Oscars" party. Dinner, silent auction, a pick-the-winners contest, no-host bar, and viewing of the TV broadcast on a giant screen. Emcee'd by Lucy Manhattan and Miss Jean. \$60. 4-10pm. 196 North Third St. (at St. James), San Jose. Info: www.sjgaypride.org

'Fusion Sunday Tea Dance' @ City Nights

"Fusion Sunday Tea Dance," a super gay tea-dance party, San Francisco style, with world-class DJ sounds by DJ Matt Consola spinning for the sweetie masses. Come meet the guys from BigMuscle.com. \$20. 6pm-2am. 715 Harrison @ 3rd. Tix at The Parking Frog, BodyBodyWear and BigMuscle.com

Widow Norton Pilgrimage

Join The Widow Norton's Pilgrimage to Joshua's Grave, Woodlawn Memorial Park, 100 El Camino, Colma. Bus pick-up in lobby of Ramada Plaza Hotel at 8am. Bus pick up at Marlena's at 8:30am.



'Party Daze' @ NCTC

The New conservative Theatre Center's YouthAware Educational Theatre Program presents six showcase performances of *Party Daze*, a one-man play written by award-winning Canadian playwright Ed Roy. Starring John Atwood. Directed by Canadian Michel Lefebvre. This compelling multimedia show centers on a seemingly normal 16-year-old boy growing up in an age of confusing expectations. Like most of his peers, he has a deteriorating relationship with his parents, has problems identifying with others and a strong desire just to be accepted. One night, he uses alcohol to escape his reality and that is when he rapes a girl: a girl he liked. The morning after the party, he locks the door to his room. Afraid to talk about what hap-

pened, he re-lives the nightmare that is his life. Free. 10am. Mon. & Wed. thru March 17. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (at Market). Tix: 861-4914, x109; youthaware@nctcsf.org

Dharma Movie Night @ MCC-SF

Q-Sangha (the Interfaith Buddhist ministry of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco) will be doing a SF premiere film screening of the award-winning documentary *Peaceable Kingdom* followed by a discussion on Compassion for Animals. "A must-see film" ... "eye-opening" ... "moving and inspiring." Expecting 100-200 persons, plenty of seating. \$10 suggested donation. 7-9pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St. (btwn 18th/19th in The Castro). Info: www.QSangha.org

'Women and the Sea' @ SF Maritime Nat'l Historical Park

In celebration of Women's History Month this March, the SF Maritime National Historical Park presents "Women and the Sea," a series of salty, seafaring programs with women at the helm. From Wendy the Welder, to turn-of-the-century suffragettes, these programs and exhibits celebrate women's role in shaping maritime and our nation's history. Most programs and exhibits are free to the public, and take place within the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park on the west end of Fisherman's Wharf. Opening today and running through March 31: "Women Who Changed Maritime History." An exhibit of historic photographs illustrating the often-overlooked impact women have had on maritime history, on view daily at the Visitor Center. Coming up: Wendy the Welder Sundays, March 21 and 28, 2 p.m. at the Visitor Center Theater During World War II, women stepped into traditional male roles in many ways, including building the Liberty Ships. Hear accounts of their contributions in this slide presentation. Located at the west end of Fisherman's Wharf, the SF Maritime National Historical Park is home to a fleet of six historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier, the Maritime Museum, and Maritime Museum Library. The park's Visitor Center is on the ground floor within the historic Haslett Warehouse, home to the new Argonaut Hotel. The Visitor Center is open from 9:30am-5pm seven days a week. Info: (415) 561-7100; www.nps.gov/safr.

Tue 2

Lambda Literary Awards

@ Main Library
The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center and Friends of SFPL present 16th Annual Lambda Literary Awards, Bay Area Reading & Reception. Authors will read from their works, and books will be available for sale and signing. The "Lammies" are awarded for the best GLBT literature published annually. Featuring authors Roslyn Banish (*Focus on Living*); Kevin Bentley (*Boyfriends from Hell*); Lucy Jane Bledsoe (*This Wild Silence*); Patrick Calia (*The Love That Dare Not Speak Its Name*); Meg Chilton (*Best Lesbian Erotica 2004*); Michael Thomas Ford (*Last Summer*); Daphne Gottlieb (*Final Girl*); Bob Guter (*Queer Crises*); Karin Kallmaker (*Maybe Next Time*); John R. Killackey (*Familiar Men*); Joel Perry (*That's Why They're in Cages, People!*); Matt Bernstein Sycamore (*Best Gay Erotica 2004*); Michelle Tea (*The Beautifully*); and Carla Trujillo (*What Night Brings*). Free. 5-7:30pm. Latino/Hispanic Meeting Room, SF Public Library, 100 Larkin St. Info: 557-4400.

Thoth @ Shooting Gallery

The Shooting Gallery & Afro Solo Theater Co. present Thoth, special guest at the Gallery's "Electric Muse," the First Tuesday Poetry Feature and Open-Mic. Tonight featuring student, teacher, creator, channeler Thoth, who employs an energetic, magical, and entertaining blend of angelic counterpoint vocals, tribal dance, foot drumming, and ambidextrous trance violin to transmit the study of balance and the practice of devotion to the Absolute — his own



Editor Mattilda introduces contributors to *Dangerous Families* at the Main Library. See Thursday.

type of yoga — through the "prayerformance" of his "soloperas" based upon legends from his mythological world, *The Festad*. Hosted by April Martin Chartrand. Afro Solo Theatre Co. is sponsoring Thoth's Saturday, March 6th evening prayerformance at the African American Arts and Cultural Center. \$3 (additional donation asked to help cover Thoth's travel expenses). 7-8:30pm; open-mike sign-ups 6:50pm. Bring cushion to sit on. 839 Larkin St. (near Geary) Info: (415) 931-8035

'The Religion Hour' @ Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Tuesday night film series at the Italian Cultural Institute screens *The Religion Hour* (L'ora di religione) by Marco Bellocchio. A staunch atheist discovers that his family has been trying to have a late mother confirmed to sainthood. The film presents a raw, controversial view of the Catholic Church. In Italian with English subtitles. With Sergio Castellitto, Piera Degli Esposti, Jacqueline Lustig, and Chiara Conti. In Italian with English subtitles. Free. 6:30pm. 425 Washington St. (btwn Sansome & Battery). Info: 788-7142.

Wed 3

'Beautiful Ugly Violence'

@ Intersection

Opening reception: "Beautiful Ugly Violence," a new exhibition of oil and watercolor paintings and mixed-media collages by Margaret Harrison, one of Britain's best-known women artists, exploring the prevalence of violence against women through a new suite of oil and watercolor paintings and research materials revealing the tools, weapons, instruments, and ideologies used worldwide. Free. 6-9pm. 446 Valencia St. Info: 626-2787; www.theintersection.org

'The Art of Espalier' @ Strybing Arboretum

Workshop: Strybing arboretum Society presents "The Art of Espalier." Learn this technique for training perennial trees, shrubs, and vines onto trellises or against fences and walls. The technique was known in ancient Egypt, and was developed in northern Europe in the 17th century for growing temperate fruits in cold climates. Today espaliered fruited trees and ornamentals are ideally suited to gardens. Taught by Brigitta Bradford-Phy and Sean McNeill of

Apple Art Espalier, Sebastopol. \$50. 6:30-9pm. Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, 9th & Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park. Pre-registration required: 661-1316 x354; education@strybing.org; www.strybing.org

Thu 4

Rick Gerharter's 'Cuba Panorama' @ World Affairs Council Library

Opening reception: "Cuba Panorama," a series of 16 original panoramic images by Bay Area photographer Rick Gerharter, currently on display at the World Affairs Council Library in San Francisco through April 23. The show is a selection of recent images from Cuba, highlighting the beauty of the country and the activities of its people. Although formally trained in Urban Studies, Rick Gerharter has found his true calling in photography. Based in San Francisco, Gerharter has photographed extensively for the past 15 years in the gay and lesbian communities of the Bay Area, in addition to extensive travel. He is regularly published in the Bay Area Reporter and the gay press throughout the United States, and has also been published in a wide variety of periodicals, newspapers and books including nearly 30 *Lonely Planet* travel guides, as well as the very popular *Survival Guide to Cuba*. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Two receptions featuring the Artist will be held, first on Thursday, March 4, 5:30-6:30pm, and then on Tuesday, March 9, 1:30-2:30pm, both in the Library. Refreshments available. The World Affairs Council's Helen Brown Lombardi Library is a spacious, comfortable spot to escape the city and explore the world. The World Affairs Council Library is located at 312 Sutter St., on the 3rd Floor, in downtown San Francisco. Info: (415) 293-4647; www.itsyourworld.org/library.

Women of Color Film Festival @ Pacific Film Archive

The Woman of Color Film Festival continues to showcase the most underrepresented group in the filmmaking community with six short programs March 4th, 12-13 at the Pacific Film Archive. Tonight's Program: "Laughter and Activism." Artists in Person. Women being frank and funny on the multicultural experience—three new films. Free Screening! 5:30pm. 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Info: (510)-642-0808;

www.bampfa.berkeley.edu

'Other' Magazine Release Party @ Modern Times Bookstore

Come greet the fourth issue of *Other*, the magazine of pop culture and politics for the new outcasts! The latest issue includes articles on tranny rock, straight-edges, cyber-friendship, sex in dungeons & dragons, the twisted secrets of the Dewey Decimal System, and the secret sonic poop weapon Hitler never used. Plus comics, poetry and fiction. Live and in person: Annalee Newitz ("Tech-spoilation") on why online communities can't sell out; Larry-bob Roberts (*Holy Titsclamps*) on transgender rock 'n' roll; tech journalist Shannon Cochran on sex in role-playing games; and Chaim Bertman (*Stand-Up Tragedian*) on Dewey Decimal Deviance. Free (buy the magazine!) 7-9pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th). Info: 282-9246; www.moderntimes-bookstore.com

Carlyle Brown @ The Marsh

Preview: The Marsh presents Carlyle Brown in "The Fula From America: An African Journey," an engrossing travelogue based on Brown's travels in West Africa and told in the tradition of the Griot, an African storyteller. \$15-\$22 sliding. Opens Fri., March 5. Closes Sat., March 27. Plays Thu-Sat. at 8pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. (btwn 21st/22nd). Tix/info: 826-5750; www.themarsh.org

'Other Minds 10' @ YBCA

The tenth anniversary for "Other Minds," one of America's premiere avant-garde music festivals, showcasing emerging composers, kicks off tonight with a composer panel at 7pm in the Forum, followed by a Concert 1 at 8pm in the Theater. Presenting Armenian-flavored works by Tigran Mansurian (with Mansurian on piano & voice, Kim Kashkashian on viola, and Joel Davel on marimba); "Flute Concerto No. 1" by Hanna Kulenty, one of Europe's most promising young composers (with Anne La Berge on quarter-tone flute and the Parallel Ensemble, Nicole Palement, conductor); and the world premiere of Jon Raskin's "The Hear and Now" with the Rova Saxophone Quartet (Bruce Ackley, Steve Adams, Larry Ochs & Jon Raskin), Min Xiao-Fen on pipa, Kyaw Kyaw Naing on pat waing, Jiebing Chen on erhu, Shoko Hikeage on koto, Sang Won park on kayagum, Jim Santi Owens on tabla tarang, and Gino Robair, conductor. \$80-\$45 festival passes; \$18-\$35 individual concert tix; \$17-\$32 student discount. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St). Tix/info: 978-2787; www.yerbabuenaarts.org

'Dangerous Families' @ Main Library

Editor Mattilda (aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore of *Pulling Taffy* fame) presents six dangerous readers from the groundbreaking new anthology, *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving*, which goes beyond the recovery narrative to create a new queer literature of investigation, exploration and transformation. Readers include Daphne Gottlieb, Veronica Monet, Ian Phillips, Carina Cassell, Jessy Luanni Wolf and Jim Van Buskirk. Refreshments & SSRIs served. Free. 6pm. SF Main Library, 100 Larkin St. Info: www.mattheinsteinsycamore.com

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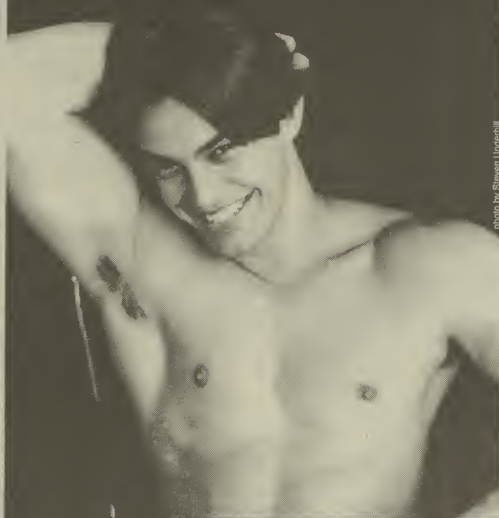


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All's Phair in love and war

On the record with Liz Phair

by Gregg Shapiro

On her first new studio disc in five years, a slick, eponymous commercial departure on Capitol Records, Liz Phair still maintains the energy and spirit of what made her so enthralling on her previous albums. There is no shortage of sex, a mainstay of Phair's, as you can hear on the censurable first single "Why Can't I," the "young guys rock" attitude of "Rock Me" and the "favorite underwear" reference of "Favorite." Phair also still has a flair for the graphic as you can hear on "H.W.C.," which stands for "hot, white come." Other Phair originals, including the Who-bombast of "Love/Hate" and the absolutely heartbreaking "Little Digger," about a child who catches his mother with another man, indicate that the whip-smart Guyville exile is there lurking under the fishnet stockings, heavy eye makeup and provocative posing.

Gregg Shapiro: Some of your songs have been covered by gay men, including "Fuck and Run," which was done by Frank Rogala on his *Crimes Against Nature* disc, and "Gunshy," which David Clement has performed in his live shows. How does it feel to have made that kind of connection with the queer community?

Liz Phair: It feels really good. My tour manager was asking me about that the other night. He asked, "Do you have a really big gay following?" And I said, Yeah, I think I kind of do, I think I have that. And he asked, "Why do you think that is?" And I said, I think it's because we both have a common interest in getting the up-tight sexuality of America a little

looser. I think they really appreciate the fact that I'm willing to push boundaries to get people to accept wider ranges of sexuality and roles.

I've been trying to convince a Chicago queer punk band called Super 8 Cum Shot to cover "H.W.C.," a song about the restorative powers of "hot white cum."

Oh, good! I like their name a lot!

It sounds like you've gotten in touch with your inner gay man on this album.

I beg to differ. I've gotten in touch with my inner woman. We've just denied women their right to be this way.

Then women and gay men have something more in common. Would you say that you have benefited from your acquaintances and friendships with gay men?

They're my friends. I don't really look at them as providing... I wouldn't say that my Asian friends are providing me with "Asian help." I've known my gay friends forever, since high school. They're my friends.

On the song "Rock Me," there is a line sung to the younger guy, that goes, "You don't even know who Liz Phair is." Do you really feel like you're unknown to segments of the music-buying public?

Totally. Now more than ever, I'm aware of it because of the radio play that I am getting. A lot of people are like, "Yeah, I've heard her name before." I never felt like a super-huge star. I never walk around my life like a big star. I wouldn't even want to. I'd like to be able to turn it on when I want to, but I wouldn't want to have it

with me all the time.

The beautiful, heartbreaking and lullaby-like "Little Digger" is one of my favorite songs on the album. Have you ever considered recording an album of songs for children your son's age or younger?

I've tried to do stuff like that. I can't reign in my own creativity. It just does what it wants. It's kind of like therapy for me. What comes out needs to come out then. I can't channel it. If I could, I'd be a lot wealthier. I'm at its mercy.

You sang on the Sheryl Crow song "Soak up the Sun," which was remixed for club play and became something of a dance club hit. Are there any songs on the new disc that you would allow to be remixed for club purposes?

We always wanted to do "Flower," from my first record. It doesn't have to just be the dirty songs. It could be other ones, too. I love giving songs a life beyond the ones that they're allotted.

I recently saw the movie *Thirteen* and heard your song "Explain it to Me" playing over the closing credits. Is it important for you to have your music heard in a cinematic setting?

It is. I am a big movie fan. I am one of those people who watches them wide-eyed and un-cynically. I suspend my disbelief. *Thirteen* was so moving to me. I completely felt, again, what it felt like to be that age and to have those kinds of issues. I was crying by the end of it. To have my songs in that kind of context is one of the most meaningful things that I can do with my work.

Speaking of movies, you have been doing some acting, including playing the office ice-princess Brynn in *Cherish*! You're in the forthcoming *Seeing Other People*. Are you enjoying exploring that aspect of your talent?

I love it. I had five lines in *Cherish* and I have one line in *Seeing Other People*, but I had more



Liz Phair on the record.

fun per line doing that stuff. I absolutely made the most of it and had the greatest time. I definitely want to be like Lyle Lovett.

Are you, as you sing in "Extraordinary," just an "ordinary, average, everyday, sane/psycho super-goddess," or is there a different way you might describe yourself?

No. I mean, I hate to upset everybody, but that's exactly how I describe myself! ▼

Liz Phair performs March 1 at the Warfield in San Francisco.

Old recordings

◀ page 46

completes a masterful cast that includes Ira Malaniuk's Brangäne, Hermann Uhde's Melot and Hans Hotter's fiercely sympathetic Kurwenal. Still, the wonder is Karajan, who transforms the orchestra into the most compelling character of all. As but one example, the intoxicating sounds that pour from the pit as the lovers drink Brangäne's love potion shimmer with magic and shudder with doom.

Control issues

Otto Klemperer's *Fidelio*, another EMI Great Recording of the Century made in 1962, has long been considered definitive. One of many revelations about Testament's new CDs of a live, Klemperer-led Covent Garden *Fidelio* on February 24, 1961, is that, had the notorious control freak (he insisted on "directing" as well as conducting the Royal Opera's new production) got his way, EMI's recording would have had the same cast.

In the event, producer Walter Legge retained only two cast



members, Jon Vickers' towering Florestan and Gottlob Frick's sensitive Rocco. While losing Christa Ludwig's Leonore on the EMI set seems unthinkable, the live recording makes it clear that Klemperer knew what he was doing. In one of the most remarkable role debuts ever, Sena Jurinac is an even more compelling Leonore, less vocally voluptuous than Ludwig, to be sure (who wasn't?), but also more deftly characterized. There's a fire in her the cooler Ludwig only rarely managed. Klemperer's

London cast seems overall superior — including the two holdovers, who are, unbelievably, even better live.

With no loss of his wonted authority, Klemperer, too, delivers a more fine-grained, human, and moving *Fidelio* for the stage. It's entirely more convincing at the dramatic level, more musically flexible without becoming lax, and at times downright nimble.

The common element in these two outstanding recordings is Hans Hotter, whose Pizarro for London leaves as indelible an impression in the spoken dialogue as in his peerless singing. These CDs provide two more reasons this singular artist, who died last year at 94, made everyone's list of the greatest singers of the last century.

There are San Franciscans who could attest that he was one of us. And, 45 years later, *Fidelio*'s closing paean to conjugal love suddenly packs new punch. ▼

Sundance

◀ page 48

Ding-dongs

Saved! is an over-the-top comedy about a Baptist high school with one too many closets. Produced by Michael Stipe, the ensemble cast includes Macaulay Culkin, Jena Malone and Mandy Moore. One guest described the prom-themed afterparty as a "fun shindig with a horrendous mix of ding-dongs, corn dogs and Hpnotiq vodka stuff."

Ruthie Shatz and Adi Barash's *Garden*, a world cinema documentary, examines the world of gay prostitutes in Tel Aviv. Ryan Shiraki's *Home of Phobia*, which many referred to as a gay *American Pie*, concerns a hetero who plays homo to get the girl. Alexandra Aja's *Haute Tension* is a brutally twisted lesbian thriller. Ramona S. Diaz' *Imelda* is just twisted, getting "beyond the shoes" for an intimate peek at the life of Imelda Marcos. Then there were the shorts (and here's a short list): *Bobbycrush*, *Hummer*, *Little Black Boot* (see, the titles are tantalizing enough).

With so many films and so much gossip (e.g., Guinevere

Turner and Rose Troche have teamed to pen the sequel to the lesbian hit *Go Fish*), there was plenty to talk about during the stream of parties, panels and mixers. The Queer Brunch, an informal schmooze-a-thon, attracted 400 industry folk.

That night, power programmers crowded into the secret entrance of a popular bar on Main Street for an after-hours Speakeasy. At panels and coffee klatches over the next few days, spirited debates focused on the mainstreaming of gay cinema, the future of women in film, and the prospect of inserting explicit sex into well-crafted drama (see for yourself in John Cameron Mitchell's highly anticipated *Shortbus*).

By the time the "Homos Away From Home" party had taken over The Queer Lounge, it looked as if everyone had got their business out of the way and were ready to party. One guest described the scene as "very relaxed, very bohemian, and 75% queer." Cheered on by the crowd, a go-go dancer in tighty-whities gracefully spun a hula-hoop around his slender body. From this small corner of snow-white Utah, the world looked positively pink! ▼

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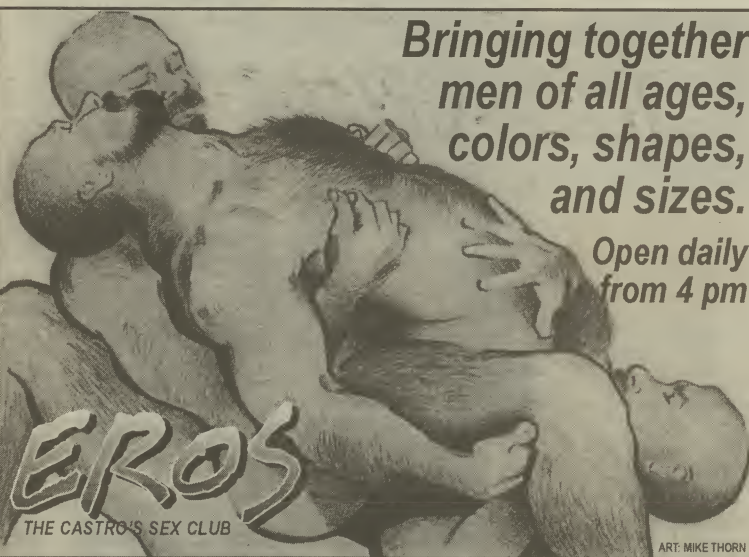
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TELEVISION

Giving it up for Lent

by Victoria A. Brownworth

It was quite a week on the tube. Howard Dean withdrew from the Presidential race, the first contender since Richard Nixon to have his bid killed directly by TV. Mass casualties in Iraq from suicide and other bombings went virtually ignored by the Bush Administration as well as by the UN, which has caved in to Pres. Bush once again, proving its total lack of efficacy and integrity. The precipitous fall of the Haitian government provided bloody footage of a different sort, also ignored Stateside. And all over the news, there we were: queers, front and center, hundreds standing in rain and shine to get married in the City by the Bay, courtesy of Mayor Gavin Newsom. The resounding ring of those "I do's" were the only positive moments we witnessed on the tube in the last week.

Some people always cry at weddings, others sneer at the thought, but who could fail to reach for the hankies as lesbian activists Del Martin, 79, and Phyllis Lyon, 83, partnered for 51 years, were finally able to marry last week, inaugurating the best moment of civil disobedience since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus.

As we watched their betrothal on the evening news — on the evening news! — we sobbed like a bad actor on a soap opera. All over America, queers and straights saw history unfold on the streets of San Francisco. Talk about reality TV! FOX has nothing on us!

Our old friend Bill Maher, former host of *Politically Incorrect*, whom ABC cravenly fired for making a few politically incorrect comments, now sports a new (and even better, for being uncensored) show on the Comedy Network. Smart and cynical as ever, Maher remains capable of putting any controversy in perspective with sharp humor and even sharper insight. On Valentine's Day, Maher, straight and a confirmed bachelor but consistently supportive of queer marriage, took on the right wing's *crisis*. There were a few *bon mots* ("they can't all marry Liza Minnelli, after all"), but mostly Maher asked what all the fuss was about. He lambasted Republicans and Democrats for their refusal to accept and endorse queer marriage. At least the Republicans were consistent in their bigotry; but the Democrats, he asserted, were utter hypocrites, having no good reason to withhold their support except pandering to the worst in politics. Go, Bill!

Maher was succinct: everyone deserves the right to marry, queer or straight. He called for a return to the right to privacy and for keeping politics out of everyone's bedroom.

Jay Leno kept the queer marriage issue burning in his monologues all week. Leno's response to George Bush's comments that the queer marriage issue caused him to be "deeply troubled" and concerned about "activist judges" circumventing the will of the people was priceless. Leno retorted that Bush didn't seem to mind judges circumventing the will of the people when they put *him* in the Oval Office. Good one, Jay.

But queer marriage wasn't all hearts and flowers. In counterpoint to the warm and tender moments of love between queers in SF were the pitched battles being waged in the Massachusetts and Ohio legislatures. The mayhem in Boston, in which many of those decrying queer marriage were Democrats, also brought us to tears, but certainly not of joy. The scene in Boston, later replicated in Ohio, was shameful and scurrilous.

Nor were we happy with our own team: Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) weighed in on the SF marriages with admonitions that those queers were queering for others. Frank seemed to be on every network and political talk show decrying the weddings as undermining the fight for "real"

queer marriage. Frank, a guest on *Nightline* lauding the Boston Supreme Court after it made its initial ruling, seems to need the glory of gay marriage to fall to him. Alas, Newsom's civil disobedience beat the Congressman to the proverbial political punch.

Dean's list

Speaking of political punches, the rise and fall of Howard Dean, a liberal icon a mere month ago, was painful to watch. Some of us had hoped that Dean could bring democracy back to the Democratic Party. He didn't sound like Truman so much as Franklin Roosevelt. His "New Deal" message energized an inert votership beaten down by the 2000 election hijacking. But TV killed the messenger while other Democratic candidates embraced and even outright stole the message. Branding Dean as "unpresidential" (true, he never looked like Bush) and a "hothead" (and yet he never took Vermont to war based on a lie), TV hammered this image of Dean home for weeks. The infamous "scream" speech in Iowa, doctored for the evening news, sealed Dean's fate. Although he left the race with far more delegates than Sen. John Edwards (D-SC), the constant media references to him "lagging" in the primaries never reflected the truth of his candidacy, while also helping to kill it.

The role TV has played in the Democratic race has been crucial and deadly: Neither Rev. Al Sharpton nor Rep. Dennis Kucinich have dropped out of the race yet, but both the newly anointed front-runner John Kerry and the runner-up, Edwards, keep referring to the "two-man race," as do TV reporters and anchors. Fewer than half the states have held their primaries, but the bid seems sewn up. So much for electoral process.

The smell of politics has been all over the roaring debate about Mel Gibson's epic film which opened Ash Wednesday, *The Passion of the Christ*. A week of non-stop "exclusive" interviewing of Gibson was all over the tube. While the interviews were supposed to quiet some of the controversy, they only served to inflame it.

We admit we were never smitten with Gibson, whose notorious anti-gay comments quashed any attraction to his hunkiness. His interview with Diane Sawyer about the Jesus film managed to hint at anti-gay sentiments once more. We watched all the inter-

views. Gibson had a lot to say, nearly all of it disturbing.

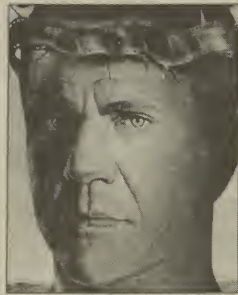
Gibson revived the word "effete" as code for gay when describing previous depictions of Jesus on the screen. When Sawyer asked him how he had wanted to depict Jesus, he sneered and noted that he didn't want his Jesus to be as "effete" as other representations. (Willem Defoe, who played Christ in Martin Scorsese's film about Jesus and is often perceived as hunky, will like that reference, we're sure.) Nothing like making the pitch that *your* God ain't no sissy queer. Charming.

But the heart and soul of the interviews rests on the hype that Gibson's film is anti-Semitic and that Gibson himself is. While every Jewish leader, including the head of the Anti-Defamation League, has declared that the film itself is not anti-Semitic, each has expressed reservations about the extremity of violence in Gibson's biopic. They have also been concerned about the presentation of Jews as both Jesus' executioners and physically repellent (shades of Nazi portrayals of hook-nosed Shylocks). No one has mentioned nor complained about Gibson's portrayal of the embodiment of Evil in the world as a woman.

The tone of the main interview was what disturbed us. Gibson was either flippant or dismissive. He doesn't seem to "get" what the controversy is over: hundreds of years of Passion plays inciting pogroms throughout Europe and Russia. He doesn't seem to get that trotting out his lead actress, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, isn't enough. And the revelation that Gibson's father is both a theologian and a Holocaust denier was particularly problematic. Gibson himself revealed that he adheres to traditional, pre-Vatican II Roman Catholicism (anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-Semitic).

Gibson should have explained that he made the film for a Christian audience, for believers in Christ, as a depiction of Christ's last, harrowing hours. The film is meant as an explication of that suffering which was, in true Christian theology, for all humankind, and which was caused, in Christian tenets, not by the Jews with the help of the Romans, but by the sins of all humankind.

Gibson did not do that. Nor, ever, did he state the fundamental fact which makes Christ's execu-



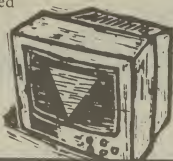
Christian martyr Mel Gibson.

tion at the hands of his fellow countrymen not an anti-Semitic moment, but a political moment: Jesus was a Jew. Gibson could never bring himself to say that. But it is the most basic mitigating factor against any indictment by Christians of Jews for the death of Christ. And Gibson not only failed to make it, he denied Jesus' own heritage.

Sawyer noted that in the course of the weeks of prepara-

tion, "everyone here at ABC learned a lot about each other." Gibson's film has sparked a firestorm which Gibson himself did not address to his huge audience. Yet Sawyer's simple comment made clear that this film and Gibson himself have forced dialogue, and opened painful wounds, among many. Stay tuned.

Finally, on a light note, conservative talk-show host Bill O'Reilly guested on Leno this week and apologized again to his conservative constituents for leading them astray on Iraq (if only Bush had the guts to do the same). Most conservatives have no conscience about the lies they tell, so we were pleased to see it. Leno opined: "I've put myself on the Bill O'Reilly diet: I only eat my words over Iraq." To his credit, O'Reilly laughed. There may be hope in the world yet. ▼



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Married with leather

Spring flings for leather folk

by Mister Marcus

Hopefully, we're out of the gray, cold doldrums of winter and the coming months hold promise(s) of new title holders, new events, new faces, new volunteers, new record-breaking fundraising events and fun, fun fun.

By now, everyone has been saturated with the gay/lesbian marriage orgy taking place in San Francisco. Political, social, advice pundits and others are weighing in with their "take" on the whole situation — some pretty and some not so pretty. Governor Schwarzburt and President Bushy even volunteered their two cents in opposition, and the religious fanatics are having a field day confronting the couples waiting in line at Marriage Hall in Faghdad-by-the-Bay. The only one we haven't heard from (at least not at my deadline), is His Holiness in Rome, but that could change any minute now.

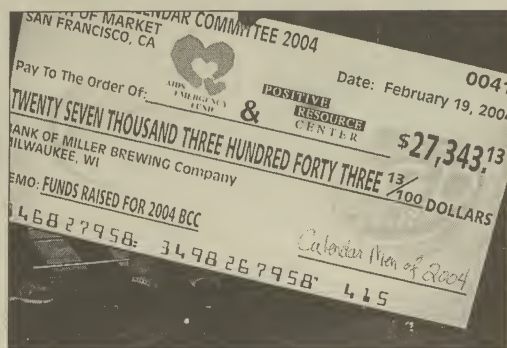
Complete strangers from around the world are sending floral bouquets, arrangements and boutonnières to those standing in line at San Francisco's City Hall, with "good wishes for the happy couple" notes attached. The local florists are making a fortune — they can barely keep up with the orders! — and the San Francisco City treasury is growing by thousands of dollars daily from the marriage fees paid by those tying the knot. It's a media circus, to be sure and once again this little 7x7-square-mile town is on the international screen and opinions abound about the whole thing.

Leather 'r' Us

But enough of marriage! The leather community has its own agenda, and the coming months look fruitful (no, that is not a pun).

This weekend, Mr. and Ms. South Plains Leather will be chosen on Friday night, and on Saturday, International Master and slave will be chosen at the South Plains Leather Fest in Dallas. The judges, contestants, volunteers, vendors, presenters and delegates are all in readiness for the second leather biggie of the year. I'll be there judging again, so you'll be the first to get the results.

Beginning this Saturday, Feb-



The AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center equally split \$27,343.13 from sales of the 2004 Bare Chest Calendar at the regular contest for 2005 last Thursday, February 19 at the Powerhouse, sponsored by Miller Brewing and Golden Brands Distributing.

ruary 28, Leather Pride Week San Diego takes the spotlight in California, with scads of events leading up to the big night when Mr. San Diego Leather will be chosen on Saturday, March 6 at the Centre in that beautiful city. Sam Bacon will step aside for a successor, and thanks for a good year, Sam.

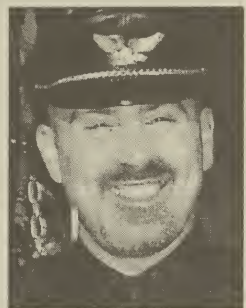
Also on Saturday, February 28, Mr. Cleveland Leather will be chosen in that city, and Mr. Sisters Leather will be chosen in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Tulsa Leather 2004 will be chosen on Saturday, March 6, and Cowtown Rodeo takes place in Fort Worth all weekend.

During the week of March 11-15, Mr. Bavaria Leather 2004 will be chosen in Munich (on March 13), Germany, and Mr. Kentucky Leather will be chosen in Lexington. In Hartford, Connecticut, Hartford Eagle bar owner Bob Boudreau reaches his 40th year on this earth with a huge party at Chez East from 1900 to closing.

The big annual Fetish Ball will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, March 20, produced by Mister S Leathers and promises to be a mammoth celebration by all kinds of kinky folks.

International Mr. Boot Black, Richie Chameroy presents the "Pacific West Mr. Bootblack" contest weekend up at the Russian River in California the weekend of March 19-21, with a plethora of events that will cost you \$150 in advance, but individual tickets can be obtained if you don't want



Here's Doug O'Keeffe, 2004 Mr. Cell Block Leather, chosen on Saturday, Feb. 14th in Chicago. He will be one of two Chicago leather men who will be in the IML Class of 2004.

to go to everything.

Stephen Blackwell will step aside as Mr. Los Angeles Leather on Saturday, March 27, during a week-long celebration culminating on Sunday, March 28 with a street fair in the City of the Angels.

The Leather Pride Week is also the same whole week in Seattle, with Mr. Washington State Leather 2004 being chosen.

The weekend of April 2-4, it's the Leather Leadership in New Orleans, while the Indiana Leather Sir/boy competition will take place in Indianapolis.

That's plenty to think about, and there's more coming, so check your schedule, your plastic balances, and plan ahead. It all looks good to me!

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 26

The 6th round of the Bare Chest Calendar 2005 contests takes place at the Powerhouse tonight at 2130. Drop in, compete, be a star and a volunteer while having fun.

Weekend, February 26-29

South Plains Leather Fest in Dallas; Imperial Coronation of the Emperor & Empress on Saturday night; The 15 Association celebrates its 24th Anniversary on Friday night with a sit-down dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and play parties on Saturday and Sunday. Call 672-0945 for info. Leather Pride Week in San Diego begins and goes thru March 7th.

Friday, February 27

"Titty Titty Bang Bang" play party for women at The Citadel Doors open 2000. This is the first of many to raise money for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. \$20 at the door. For info: redsphx@aol.com.

Saturday, February 28

Mr. Sisters Leather in Los Angeles County. No venue received at my deadline. Mr. Cleveland Leather Contest in Cleveland and the Warriors MC in Los Angeles celebrate their 35th Anniversary. For info: www.warriorismc.org.

Sunday, February 29

Under One Roof beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500 to 1800 today, only \$8 for food, entertainment, auctions with an "Oscar" theme. Under One Roof has to date raised \$9,775,000 for the fight against AIDS. That's nine million-plus! Paul Olsen's tenure of 8 1/2 years has been a smashing success! Good luck Paul in all your future endeavors. We will miss you!

Thursday, March 4

Another round in the Bare Chest Calendar contests tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Got it? Flaunt it! Do it for charity! Do it tonight!

PORN

Yuks and f—s

by John F. Karr

Funny porno? The prospect is scary. So you'll wanna know how the ha-ha's affect the hard-ons in two new features. While *There Goes the Neighborhood* sacrifices two entire scenes to an admittedly entertaining farce before settling down to deliver some mighty sexy goods, it's inept filmmaking that undercuts the sex in *Rear Factor*, not the intermittent and only mildly bothersome gags.

The first half of *There Goes the Neighborhood* is less concerned with sex than the comedy that ensues when a film crew's arrival in suburbia provokes meddling antics among busybody neighbors.

If you're in the mood for porn, these lively, surprisingly well-acted, and actually witty vignettes will be frustrating. What seems to be some excellent sex is truncated, interspersed, diced and generally tossed out the window in favor of

There are two nosy housewives, an uptight (and closeted) hubby, a suspicious policeman, one kittenish teenage girl appropriately named Annie Margaret, and her cocky surfer-stud boyfriend, who begs his dad to call him Kahuna. When Paul Johnson, playing the porn director, follows the surfer down to the beach, Kahuna's also not above a direct request for sex. Oh, baby, this beauty's more than a little bi.

This is cocky Brad Benton's most sizzling scene ever, and his bout with Johnson is explosive, a sweaty, screaming and groaning sensation. And what a nasty surprise when they flip-flop.

Plot complications are

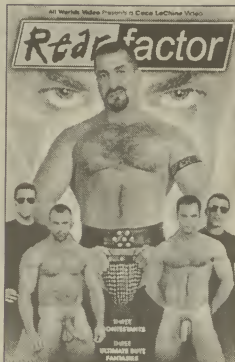
stylishly tele-scoped and lead

quickly into the mistaken-identity finale. The porn stars are expecting someone dressed as a cop to join the filming, so of course the real cop gets jumped and mauled. Making a swell debut, Phil Phillips as the cop puts up a fabulously real struggle, but ends up aiding and abetting every lawbreaking stroke that goes down. His gang-bang is a rough and rowdy rumble, an exciting conclusion to the movie. Cleverly written and directed by Rick Tugger, the movie has perfect period set design and music. Go for it: the comedy is fun, and gets out of the way for two swell extravaganzas.

Ass transit

Rear Factor sounds like a clever idea: it's a reality show in which contestants enact their ass fantasy. With their hearts electronically monitored to see whose beats the fastest, it's not He Who Gets Fucked Best who wins (which reflects more on the fucker, after all, not the fuckee), but He Who Has More Fun. You know going in that's gonna be feisty Tag Adams. Hefty and hairy Jon Galt's mighty sexy, but have you ever seen him smile? And though Anthony Shaw's an Eveready Fuckbunny, he's a seriously hardworking one.

These three guys love to get



their asses pounded, and they have some pretty hardcore fantasies. Adams is joined by Steve Pierce, who shares some of his patented and always amazing dildo action, as well as some gargling watersport play. Splish-splash, how they love to take a bath. Galt is thoroughly reamed by Chris Steele's violent agitator action. Jack Ryan's always ultra-stiff prick has a head that's cocked forward as jauntily as Judy Garland's fedora when she's singing "Get Happy." When it points to High Noon, the hot-wired Mr. Shaw gets to sit right down on it in a Reverse Cowboy that goes way into overdrive when Logan Krewe settles himself atop Mr. Shaw's rigidly upright poker. What a view, this triple totem-pole of cock into ass! Sure got my heart-rate going.

Yet whoever thought that the hardcore mood of these fantasies would be sustained by separating them with the smarmy patter and forced jocularity of a game show really wasn't thinking too clearly. Melodramatic seriousness would have been more effective than comedy. Even so, it's the editing that sabotages at least half of *Rear Factor*. Both Adam's opening scene and the group finale, which plops both Adams and Shaw into slings and then features some unique glass dildos, are disjointed and robbed of continuity, their many heart-stopping events rendered incidental. *Rear Factor* promises "the ultimate butt fantasy." My fantasy was that meddling scriptwriters and editors would butt out. ▼

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the comedy. Too bad — it has a lot going for it, not the least of which is the extreme eroticism of posing straps. The movie's a period piece, set in 1963, as an AMG-like company films those faux Roman pose-and-flex quickies — which turn to full-fledged orgies as soon as the camera is turned off.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Chicago seeks volunteers

During IML 2004 weekend in Chicago, the Leather Archives & Museum is looking for volunteers for a "Leather Casino" taking place to raise much-needed funds again. Volunteers should be in Chicago and available at IML for a short training session on Thursday, May 27 for the event which will take place on Friday, May 28. Meals will be provided during training and at the event. If you

are interested in volunteering, please call (773) 761-9200 or send an email with your name and phone number to: archives@leatherarchives.org.

SF Leather/Levi Weekend

The award-winning Leather/Levi Weekend ("Best Weekend Run," 2003) advises that the weekend run registration begins on Monday, March 1st. The event takes place at beautiful Saratoga Springs Resort the weekend of August 12-15, and is getting rave reviews from old guard and new. It has workshops, demos, food, drink and fun. It's billed as a

"Twisted Summer Camp for Leather Men and Women." You can register online by surfing to www.leatherlewi.org, or pick up registration forms at Daddy's, the Eagle Tavern, or the Turf Club in Hayward.

Last year's weekend run sold out in record time and many had to be turned away, so do it today or be left out of the action.

Oh there's more — a lot more, so stay tuned to this page. And if you're interested in what's doing in other parts of the country, make a point to read www.LeatherPage.com.

See you all next week! ▼

New Age

◀ page 47

sical sopranos of our time. Blessed with a uniquely radiant, shimmering voice, Auger eschewed the world of grand opera to concentrate on the intimate world of art song. There she excelled, not through artifice, but through a rare gift of direct, heartfelt communication.

This priceless collection was recorded in 1988, when the 48-

year old soprano's voice had reached the peak of womanly maturity. All the songs, beginning with Aaron Copland's "Pastorale" and ending with Frederick Loewe's "Before I Gaze at You Again" (*Camelot*), speak of love. So does the voice itself.

Sir Simon Rattle, now conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, once described Auger as possessing the only voice that could make time stand still. This you will hear in her ravishing performances of Obradors' "Del Cabello más sutil"

and Ovalle's famed "Azulão." Auger's control is remarkable, the soft high tones drifting off into the ethers like few others you have heard. Recorded four years before she died of a brain tumor, this recital is one of those priceless creations that leaves one grateful for the gift of life. If you've ever thought classical music forbidding, especially when sung in a foreign language, this is your opportunity to discover that the language of the heart knows no bounds. ▼

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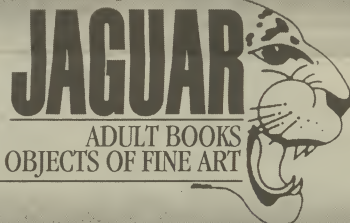
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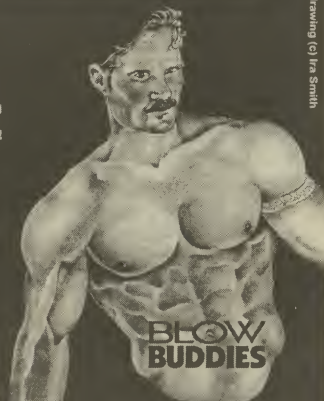
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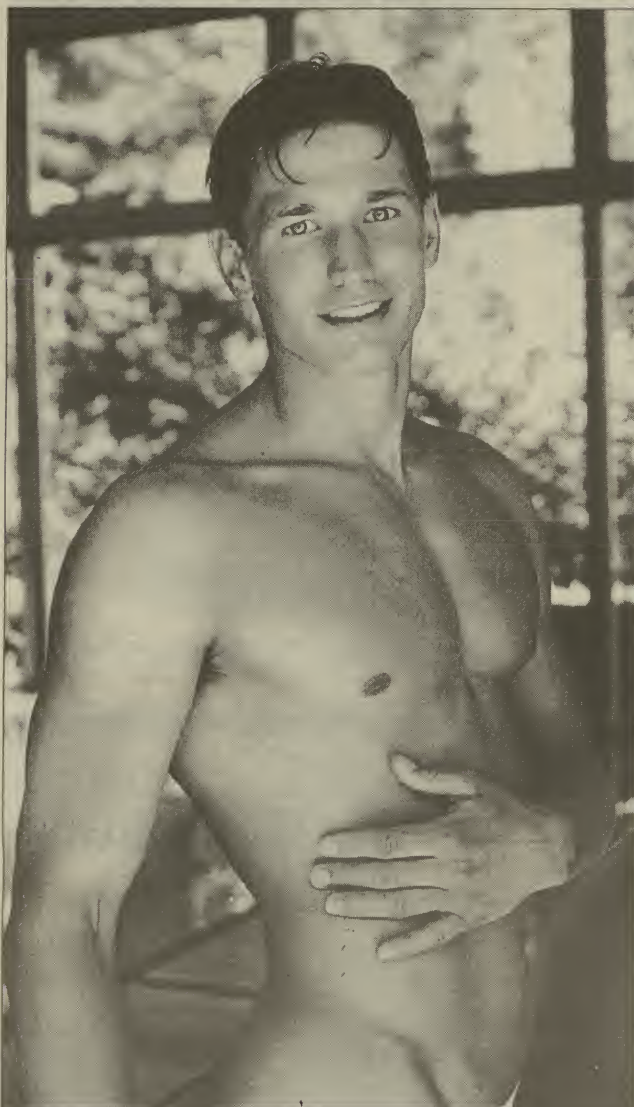
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PARTING GLANCES

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10
Talked briefly at concession stand before movie "Devil". You: slim, medium height, dark (Tamil? Bengali?) Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: ER05 1-11-04
Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you...If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Mr. Mill Valley, SAT. 1/10, SOMA
Your Outstanding. I'd like to reconnect. Please call. ☎ 71058

Saturday 1/10 Bus #48 4-40 pm
You chubby white man aboard bus at Potrero and 24th street. Seated Front. Asked me the time. I reply 20 to 5:00. We looked at each other. You wore beige jacket, glasses w/cane. Me Latin w/bomber jacket, kahki pants. We get off at the same stop. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71057

Red Jeep Driving Down 15th St.
We've exchanged glances at least four times now. I was walking my dog this time. Would love to say hello in person. ☎ 71073

Danny 1/31 On The Phone
I was at Holiday Inn. You're 6'3" tall. Blk Hr/Gr Eyes. "Driving me crazy" - contact me please (Let's Meet) ☎ 71086

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Sagittarius 38yo, 155 lbs, 5'8", nice round ass, slim body HIV+, healthy. Seeking guys under 40 smooth, slim body. Race and size is unimportant. No drugs or heavy drinkers. Gemini, Aries, Taurus, Leo. SF only. ☎ 71059

Seeking Friendship and More
33, Healthy HIV+, 160#, Brn, Brn eyes. Likes books, movies, theatre, cooking, and fitness. Looking to meet someone special. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71060

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples
I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Looking for a smooth, muscular guy with huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth and wish to satisfy you. ☎ 71061

Muscular Italian AM Seeks Asian
To date on a regular basis. Please be smooth, fit and honest, 25-50, and know what you want. I'm 46yo, passionate, sensual, sincere. You be mature, honest, and please no games/BS. No one night stands. ☎ 71062

Bound and Gagged
GWM, 46, 5'10", 160, lean, hairy seeks masculine man for dating/possible relationship. Very Turned on by role-play, tie up games, top and bottom, securely bound and gagged. Must love bondage. ☎ 71063

Sweet Husky Huggable Mini Bear
ISO friendship or LTR with HIV-GWM, GHM, 38-52. I enjoy movies, gardening, cooking, the ocean; Me: GWM, 5'9", S&P, blue. SF & Peninsula area. ☎ 71064

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt
seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 71075

Positives Unite!
Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom leading resourceful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072

Looking for that Special Man
I am looking for that special man that I can spend the rest of my life with as my best friend and life partner. I am 5'11", 180#, Italian, HIV-, versatile. You should be GWM, GLM, 40-60. Can't wait to meet. Serious only. ☎ 71069

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 180#, Redhead, Mobile Home owner. Ex Navy. Enjoy drumming, talk radio, chess and tennis. Seeking Female. ☎ 71070

Craving Affection?
Feeling lonely or unloved? Need an understanding new friend to talk to and be held and touched? Slim masculine guy 44 seeks another slim, masculine guy younger or same age, any race. ☎ 71074

Need Service? 40 - 60? Mornings?
Seeking oral top who needs & appreciates excellent service. I'm attractive, clean cut, 40, HIV+. You, 40-60 stocky to heavy & really loves good head. No drugs BS. I want to take good care of you. ☎ 71080

Mature Muscular Man
50-60, single, HIV-neg. is what I seek for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, HIV-neg., 5'7", 150#, goatee, smooth 40" chest, 30" waist, NS, ND. ☎ 71081

Black Cock Wanted
White guy, 55, great shape, 6'1", wants to suck on a black cock every night. Will treat it and you really good. ☎ 71082

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Looking For A Hung Guy?
If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least "9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

STR8 Guys! I Wanna Suck You!
I can do a way better job than your girlfriends. We can 69, watch videos and DVD's, and have fun. ☎ 71052

Hispanic Guys. I'm Looking
for Hispanic men who are hung and good-looking and hot, to service, watch videos and have a hot time. ☎ 71053

Looking For Guys In Marin
I'm looking for guys in Marin County, who are hung or good looking, for fun and good times, to party, etc. ☎ 71054

Spanker Wanted for OJK
Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you and no reciprocity required. Me: 159 Lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can Do Scenes. ☎ 71065

Above N' Beyond
Let me be myself, hang between your legs and smell your scent. You place your legs on my shoulders. Make it happen. ☎ 71066

Hot Mature Men
Passionate LM 46, 6', 165lbs. I enjoy giving slow, sensual oral pleasure to senior men. Bearded, kissing, loners. Husky non-gym a plus. Possible LTR. Not into pain, S&M or the gay lifestyle. ☎ 71067

Novice Curious about Anal Sex
Seeking older man with six inches who will take it slow while giving me my first anal exp. Me: 40yo, Brn, Hazel. You over 50 yo. ☎ 71068

Desire Thick Cocked Average/Maculine Guy
Heavy, intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying scenes only. ☎ 71076

P02 Freak
40, 5'8", 177 poz, healthy mystic honest guy seeking another poz freak pig for ongoing play sessions on regular basis ☎ 71077

Hard Body Hung Dark Meat
Worship by bi white 5'8" tall 175 lbs. 32" w, 7"/5" cut squeaky clean and discreet & grateful. ☎ 71078

Beer and Strip Poker
Lets relax with a few beers and see who ends up naked first. Masculine swimmer with lean build and handsome cut dick looking for another masculine guy with lean build 18-45. ☎ 71083

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

Yes Yes-Hung-Yes No Yes Vers
48 Rugged good looks. 9 1/2 X 7 German-Cherokee, anal, poz 18 years. Healthy, happy, ISO mature partner, hung a plus. S' 71087

Blonde All American Guy
Looking for hook up. For tonite, maybe for life. Who knows. I'm 37. Str8 looking-acting. ☎ 71088

48 5'9" 150# GYM Toned Handsome
Seeks wkend L.T.R. w/friend/lover during the week. We each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wkend & being together. Be 18-60 in-shape & gd looking w/ cool attitude. I'm into art, reading, hiking, Zen & yoga, working out & hot sex. S.F. Santa Rosa, San Raphael. ☎ 71089

Italian AM Muscular Seek Asian
46 yrs., clean, HIV negative, work out 4 days a week. Wishes to date, on regular basis, a smooth, muscular Asian. I'm romantic, passionate, sincere. Please be stable, no flakes, b/s. ☎ 71090

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples
I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Seeks a smooth, muscular guy w/huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth, and will satisfy you. Pls no B/S. ☎ 71091

Prof. Bartender Aims To Please!
Me: WM, 44 y old, 6'1", 220 lbs., S & P, rzl, stache, gd looking, horny 24/7. You: Older, hairy, clean, bald, 40-60 WM, professional, stable, hung. South Bay - Penninsula a plus! ☎ 71092

Mature Asian Men
WLM 46, 6', 165 lbs, moderately hairy. ISO older Asian men over 60 who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure all over. Not into the gay scene or lifestyle. LTR possible. ☎ 71093

Platinum Polar Bear
HIV+ top, 50, 5'8" 200# S/P/B 7.5" cut big nuts. Takes charge or kicks back. Multi-loaded, long sessions, any age/race. LTR or 1 nite stand. Daytime, too. ☎ 71094

"Nipples & Ass"
I love big, large, swollen, puffy nipples. 18 to 35. Slim or muscle build for some manly spankings. I'm aggressive, strong loving man. No fats or fems. ☎ 71095

"Puffy Nipples"
Seeking males 25 to 45 with large swollen nipples. No extended nipples and no fats or fems. Give me something to suck & fuck. Latino's and mixed race. ☎ 71096

"Young Nipples"
18 to 20, goodlooking males for some lessons in lovemaking. GBM, 52, 5'10", 200, Ch. 50". You, submissive Latin, Black and Asian. No fats or fems. Mixed race a plus. ☎ 71097

FETISHES

Maximized/Spuried Load Fetish!
ISO major/spuried shoots that almost take my head off; "process" your dick/balls "compassionately" to reap/earn this reward! ☎ 71056

2004 Cigar Threesome Ravish
Me: Mr. XXX HM-55 ISO All Bi-Males (21-40 only) My +++ cigar-smokers. Seek all bi-males for first time threesome. 69 all day ☎ 71071

Foot Players-Do Not Keep Your feet bundled in winter socks, let's get them together; touching, rubbing. Sensuous and fun. GWM, 40's seeks same. Clean feet only. ☎ 71079

Serious Moustache Fetish
Sincere, honest, mature and endowed black gentleman, 49, 5'9", 180, balding, stache, 8.5 inches. Seeking a mature, masculine man with a moustache only for good times. All races. ☎ 71098

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Room Available For Sex No Strings
5'9", 170 shaved head 32 looking for guys between ages 18-50 who come to San Diego and need a place to stay and have fun. ☎ 71085

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☐ Fetishes
☐ Couples
☐ Others

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Headline, 30 characters maximum _____

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum _____

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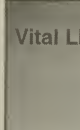
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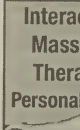
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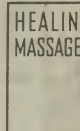
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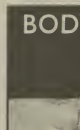


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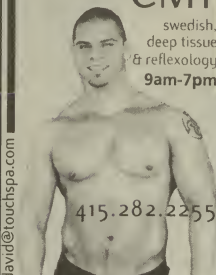
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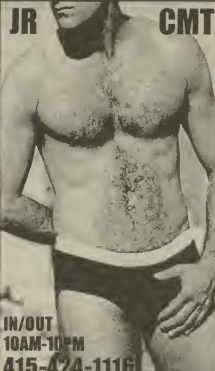
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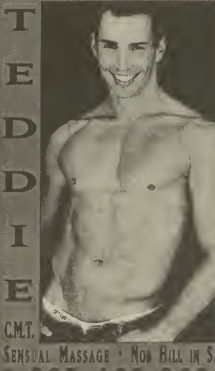
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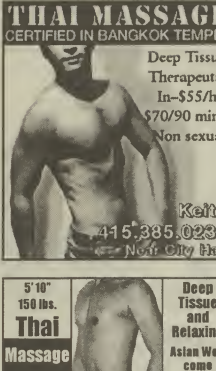
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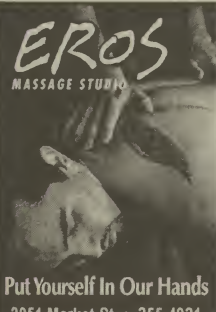
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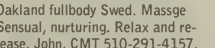
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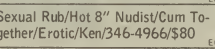
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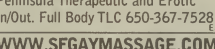
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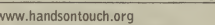
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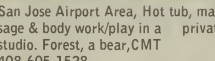
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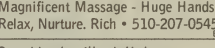
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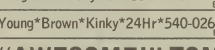
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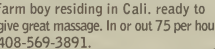
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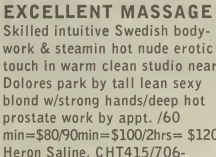
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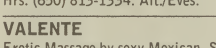
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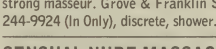
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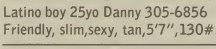
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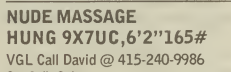
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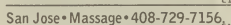
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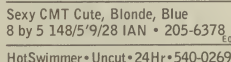
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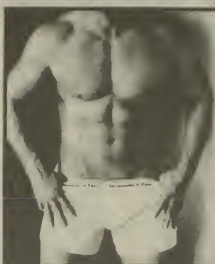
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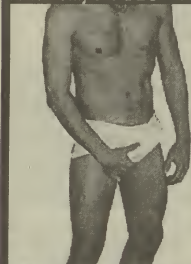


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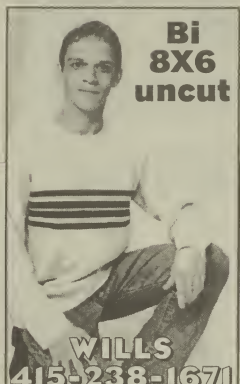
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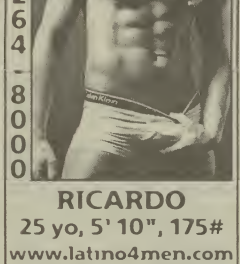
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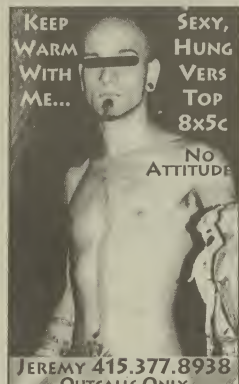
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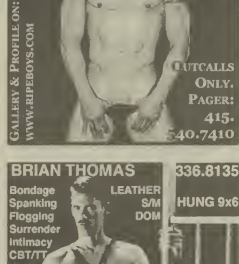
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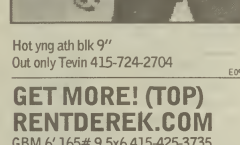
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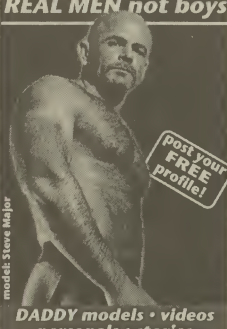
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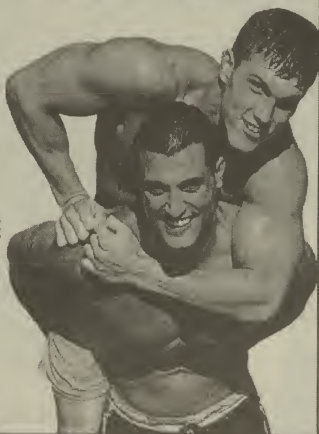
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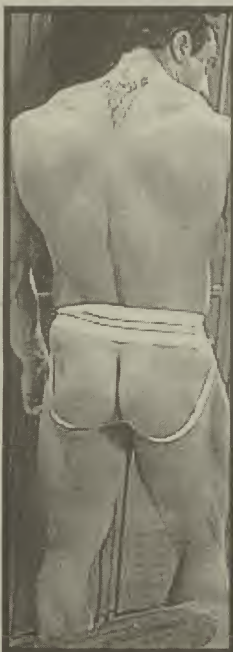
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